Jack Brisco's Startling Confession:
"I'M NO BETTER THAN BRUISER BRODIE!"

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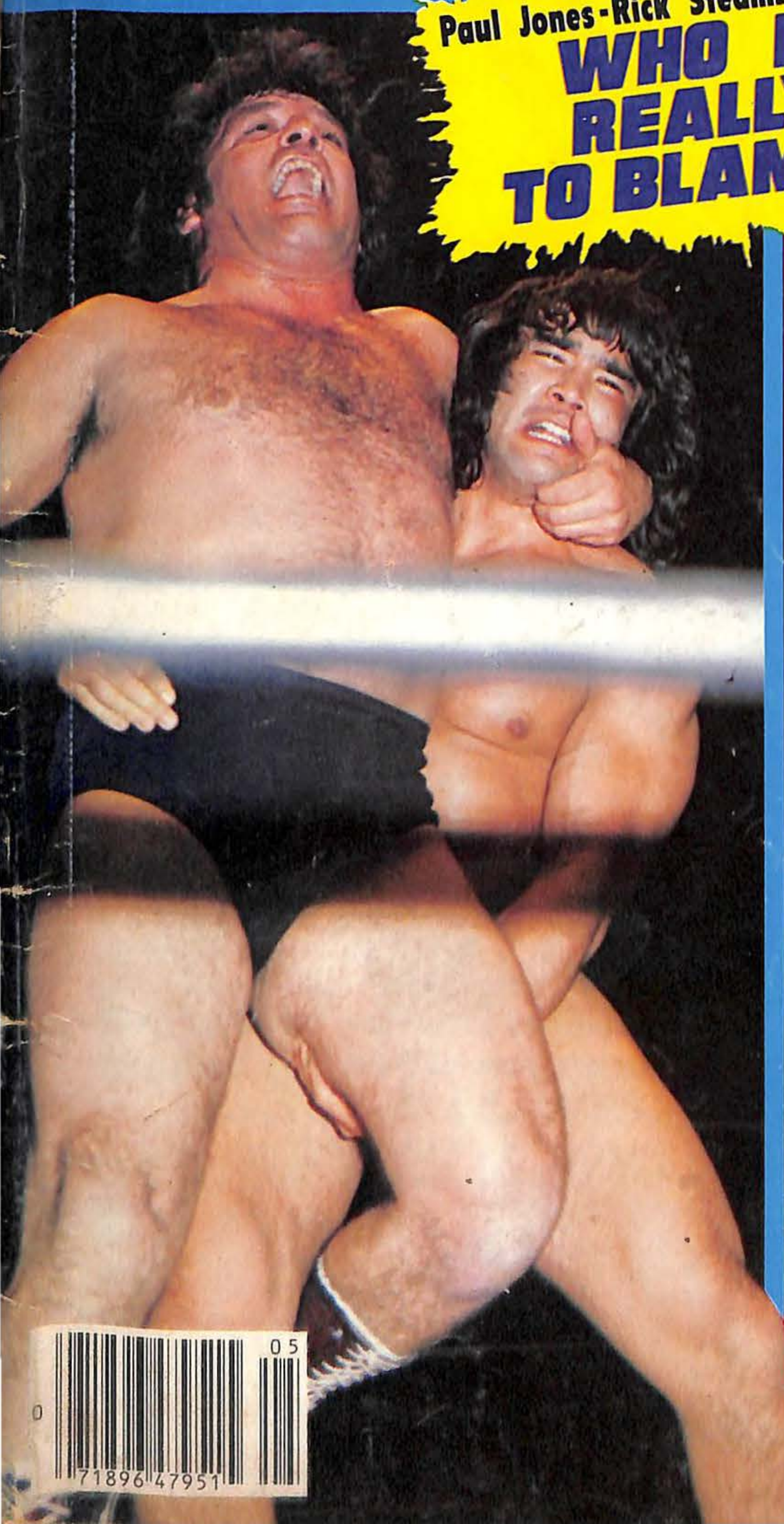
THE Wrestler

Paul Jones-Rick Steamboat Feud:
WHO IS REALLY TO BLAME?



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The Wrestler

CONTENTS/MAY 1979

6 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
See where your favorites are rated this month

8 **YOU ASKED US**
Top wrestlers answer one of *your* questions

10 **CORRESPONDENT REPORTS**
In depth reports from around the world

12 **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
Assistant Editor Bill Apter tells all!

14 **THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF PEN PALS**
Isn't it time you joined the fun?

18 **YOUR LETTERS**
Important comments from you, the fans

20 **THE VALIANTS ARE BACK**
And no one can stop them!

23 **INTRODUCING . . . SKIP YOUNG**
Another talented young man scampers up the pro ladder

24 **"I'M NO BETTER THAN BRUISER BRODIE"**
Jack Brisco's startling confession

26 **"THE AX" IS SHARPER THAN EVER**
Larry Hennig is back!

29 **"DON'T CALL ME BROTHER, SONNY KING!"**
Rocky Johnson teaches King a lesson

30 **THE BATTLE OF THE BLACKJACKS**
Lanza vs. Mulligan? It could happen

32 **HARLEY RACE: NEW POWER IN THE WWWF**
NWA champion Race wants Bob Backlund's belt

34 **THE PAUL JONES-RICK STEAMBOAT FEUD**
Who is *really* to blame?

38 **CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW AND THE GREAT TAG TEAM MYSTERY**
Why does Strongbow drive his partners to rulebreaking?

43 **JIMMY SNUKA GIVES KEN PATERA A "CIVILIZED" BEATING**
Snuka shows Patera who the real man is

COVER PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

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STAFF

STANLEY WESTON
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF .... Peter King
SENIOR EDITOR .... Robert J. Thornton
MANAGING EDITOR .... Bill Apter
ASSOCIATE EDITORS .... Gary Morgenstein
.... Randy Gordon
.... Dan Shocket
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CHIEF, PRODUCTION .... Karl Hlavac
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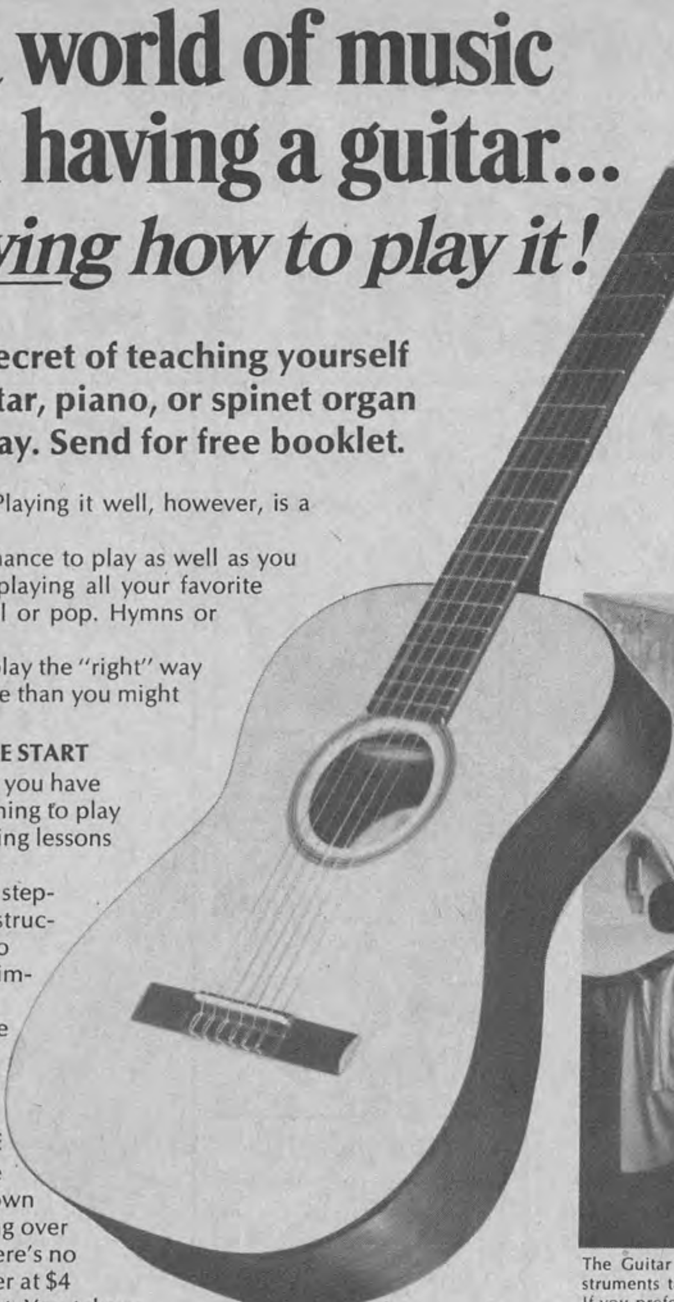

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3—PETER MAIVIA
4—DUSTY RHODES
5—IVAN KOLOFF
6—IVAN PUTSKI
7—VICTOR RIVERA
8—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
9—SPIROS ARION
10—STAN STASIAK

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE
1—VERNE GAGNE
2—JIM BRUNZELL
3—GREG GAGNE
4—JERRY LAWLER
5—BILLY ROBINSON
6—STAN HANSEN
7—SUPER DESTROYER II
8—CRUSHER
9—RAY STEVENS
10—PAT PATTERSON

MOST POPULAR

1—ANDRE THE GIANT
2—DUSTY RHODES
3—RICK STEAMBOAT
4—IVAN PUTSKI
5—MIL MASCARAS
6—MR. WRESTLING II
7—VERNE GAGNE
8—JERRY LAWLER
9—DINO BRAVO
10—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

BULLDOG BROWER

STAN HANSEN

MIL MASCARAS

RICK STEAMBOAT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
3—RICK STEAMBOAT
4—KEN PATERA
5—MASKED SUPERSTAR
6—RIC FLAIR
7—JIM GARVIN
8—JACK BRISCO
9—MIL MASCARAS
10—MR. WRESTLING II

TAG TEAMS

1—JIMMY SNUKA & PAUL ORNDORFF
2—PAT PATTERSON & RAY STEVENS
3—LARRY ZBYSZKO & TONY GAREA
4—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
5—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
6—KEN PATERA & JOHN STUDD
7—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
8—DUSTY RHODES & ANDRE THE GIANT
9—MR. UGANDA & PAK SONG
10—DAVID & KEVIN VON ERICH

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1—PAUL JONES
2—PETER MAIVIA
3—BULLDOG BROWER
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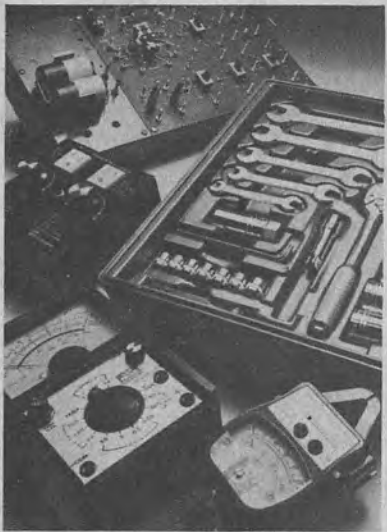

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

Manager Freddie Blassie shows off a photo from his championship days as a rulebreaking grappler in a record studio. Blassie has recorded a song played on the radio titled "Pencil-Necked Geek." Blassie's gravel voice is quickly recognizable.

Q: I was listening to the radio the other day and they played a song called "Pencil-Necked Geek." They said it was sung by Fred Blassie. Is this the same Fred Blassie we all know or some lunatic with the same first and last name?—John DeMarco, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A: "Several years ago I recorded that brilliant tune. As expected, it met with considerable artistic praise from those few morons who know a good song when they hear it," said Blassie. "I've turned down club dates because I want to strengthen my hold on wrestling first. Then I'll get my own variety show."

Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden holding the mask of Executioner II proudly over his head to the crowd. Executioner II managed to throw a towel over his face and remain anonymous.

Q: When Bob Backlund unmasked Executioner II at Madison Square Garden, who was the Executioner II revealed to be?—Doug Drescher, Lancaster, Pa.

A: Despite Backlund's unmasking, Executioner II managed to preserve his identity by tossing a towel over his face. A crimson-colored scar along the base of his chin was all that could be seen before Executioner II scurried into the dressing room.

***

Q: Stan Hansen is talking about teaming up with Blackjack Mulligan. Does this mean Blackjack Mulligan is thinking of turning rulebreaker again?—Pat Nabors, Fayetteville, N.C.

A: We asked Mulligan about this. His voice dropped to a guarded whisper with a slight trembling edge. "I can't, uh, do anything about what other wrestlers say. No, I haven't, uh, discussed this particular point with Hansen. I've turned to scientific wrestling and I, uh, really don't want to deal with any more questions on it."

(Continued on page 56)

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The new United States heavyweight champion Rick Steamboat has ex-champion Ric Flair in agony on the mat (above). Steamboat finally realized his dream.

GREENSBORO, N.C.—*Correspondent:* **Roger Dockery**-In a grueling 37 minute bout, Rick Steamboat defeated Ric Flair for the United States heavyweight title. This was a classic match pitting determined young Steamboat against treacherous, rulebreaking champion Flair. Despite an intensive amount of rulebreaker tactics, Flair couldn't stop Steamboat's superior maneuver and lost his belt.

In other matches, Paul Jones narrowly topped Paul Orndorff . . . Blackjack Mulligan and John Studd were both disqualified . . . . Ted and Jerry Oates stopped Gene Anderson and Brute Bernard.

Former WWWF champion Ivan Koloff delivers a boot to the chest of "The Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino (above). Ever since Koloff defeated Bruno for the WWWF belt many years ago, the two champions have tried to destroy each other.

WEST ORANGE, N.J.—*Correspondent:* **Susan Kelly**—The South Mountain Arena was jam-packed for the return of Bruno Sammartino to the area after a considerable absence. Poised to face Bruno was former WWWF titlist Ivan Koloff, the man who beat Sammartino for the title several years ago. The match included great scientific maneuvers. However ancient animosities erupted and hurled both men into a vicious free-for-all. Shoved out of the ring many times, the referee had no choice but to disqualify both men.

In other bouts, Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko successfully defended their WWWF tag team title against Pierre the Lumberjack and Baron Scicluna . . . Ivan Putski halted Victor Rivera.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—*Correspondent:* **Mike Monahan**—A frenzied struggle for the NWA title took place between champion Harley Race and Bruiser Brodie. Harley suplexed Brodie and had him beaten. While suplexed, Brodie's foot hit the ref and knocked him down. A friend of Brodie's entered the ring and counted to three. Race thought the match was over. Brodie, knowing better, kept wrestling, finally pinning Race. The dazed ref awarded the match to Brodie. But after reviewing the films, he reversed the decision and gave the belt back to Race.

In other bouts, Tank Patton and Bulldog Bob Brown were both disqualified . . . Doug Gilbert and Tom Andrews clobbered Doug Patten and Don Adams.

(Continued on page 46)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THE BIG STORY this month concerns the lifetime banning of Bobby Heenan from the AWA. Heenan was ousted from the Association after a meeting with AWA president Stanley Blackburn. It ended with Heenan disagreeing over a matter with Blackburn and punching him in the face! This now leaves AWA champion Nick Bockwinkle without a manager in AWA territory. It also leaves AWA tag team champions Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson in the same situation. Heenan has reportedly left for a managerial position in Georgia. Blackjack Lanza has signed with Heenan for Georgia matches and several other wrestlers are currently negotiating with Heenan for use of his managerial services.

Japanese promoter Hisashi Shinma is the new President of the WWWF. The post, previously held by the late Willie Gilzenberg, was given to Mr. Shinma after several months of deliberation by WWWF officials. Mr. Shinma has also held the position of first vice-president in the Federation. We welcome his appointment and wish him luck in his new job.

Two Florida fan favorites, Jos LeDuc and Jim Garvin, are locked in a bitter feud. Garvin claims that he has photographic proof showing Leduc accepting money from hated Florida manager Sonny King. The photo was taken before Leduc entered the Florida wrestling wars. "Why Garvin would want to tell this to the Florida fans is beyond me!" LeDuc exclaimed. "He is trying to ruin my good name and I refuse to let that happen!" Garvin feels that LeDuc may still be dealing with King. "You never know," explained Jim. "Now that Paul Jones, Peter Maivia, and others have sold out to ruthless managers, you just don't know who you can trust anymore!" Fans hope this feud will be a short one.

Bobby Heenan (above) swears he'll return to the AWA. He's been banned for life! Jim Garvin (below) says Jos LeDuc might be managed by Sonny King!

In Memphis, Tennessee, former New York Jet football player Verlon Biggs is enjoying a fine rookie season in pro wrestling. He has racked up an impressive 32-match victory streak! Go Verlon, go!"

In the WWWF, young Steve Travis is winning both the hearts of the fans and every match he's been in. This handsome and very likeable fellow has an abundance of talent and is headed straight for main event status . . . Captain Lou Albano refuses to deny talk that he's the manager of women's

(Continued on page 48)

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HUNTER'S GOT A LOT TO LEARN

I don't think your newest correspondent, Liz Hunter, is any good at all. All she cares about is how the wrestlers look. In a match like Ric Flair against Andre the Giant, she'd root for Flair because he's good-looking and Andre's ugly. That shows she knows nothing about important points, such as their sense of fair play.

If Liz Hunter went more by the skills of the wrestlers themselves and not how pretty they look, she would do much better. She's got a lot to learn.

TIM WARGO
Roslyn, N.Y.

ALL WRONG

Your ratings are usually good, but you goofed recently. Leo Burk should be number one contender in the NWA. His record speaks for itself. Leo Burk has .beaten the greats of the business like Jack Brisco and Terry Funk. He's proven himself time and again.

I just don't think it's fair that a great wrestler like Leo Burk gets slighted because he's not as well-known as lards like Dusty Rhodes or Rick Steamboat. Let them challenge Leo and settle it once and for all. If they dare.

ROY BROWN
New Brunswick, Canada

(Continued on page 58)

Ric Flair rides the massive back of Andre the Giant (left). Reader Tim Wargo claims correspondent Liz Hunter favors handsome wrestlers like Flair. Wargo points out that Hunter shows no knowledge of grappling skills by caring about how Flair looks (above).

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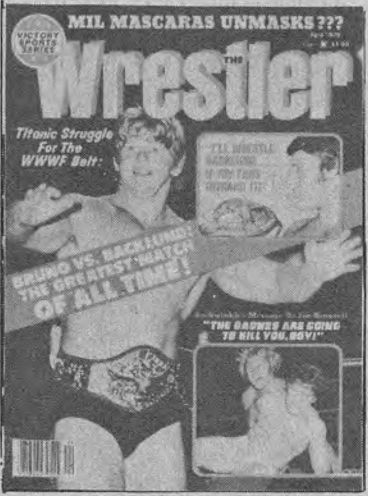

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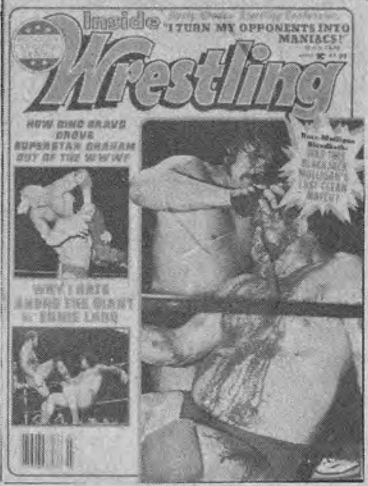

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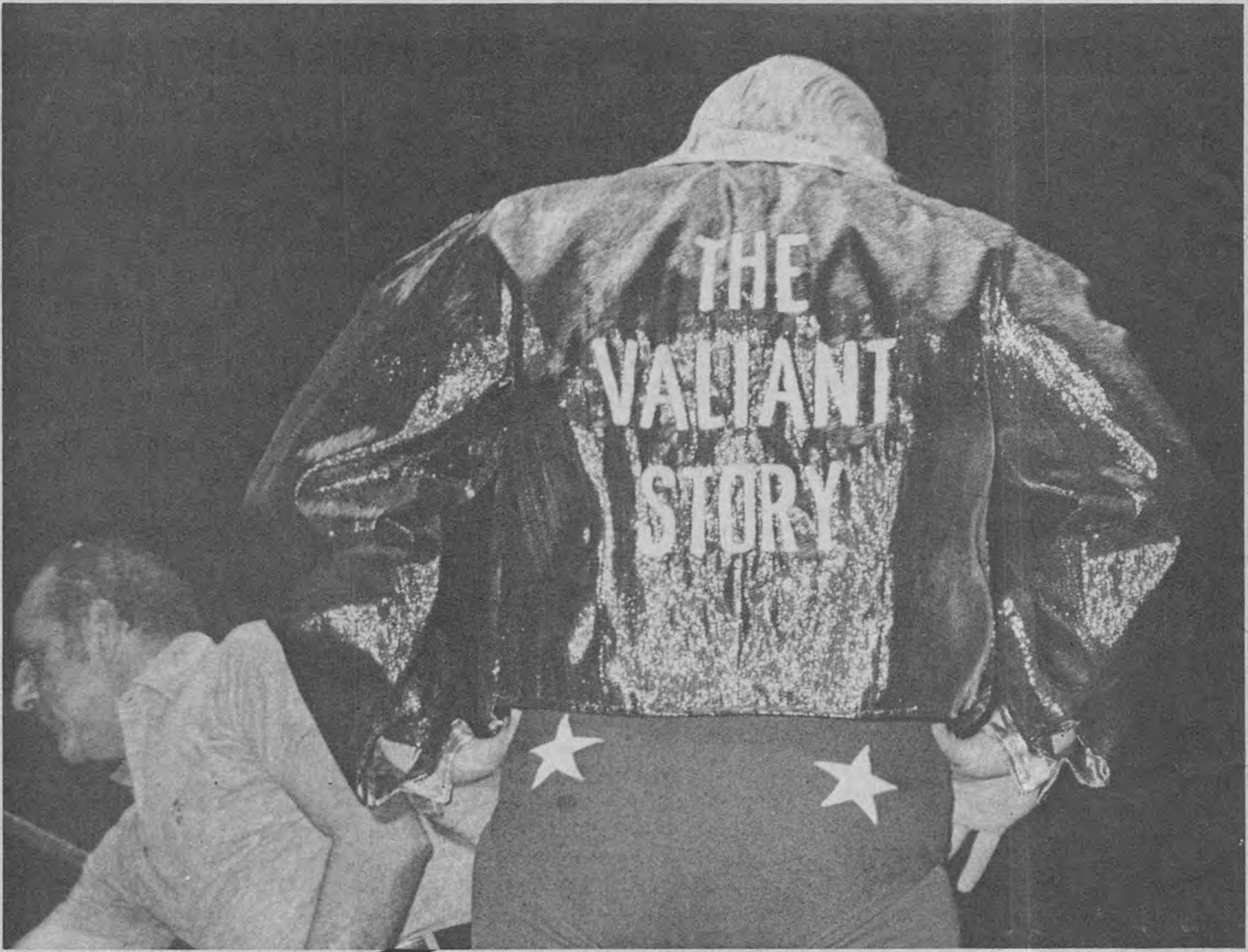


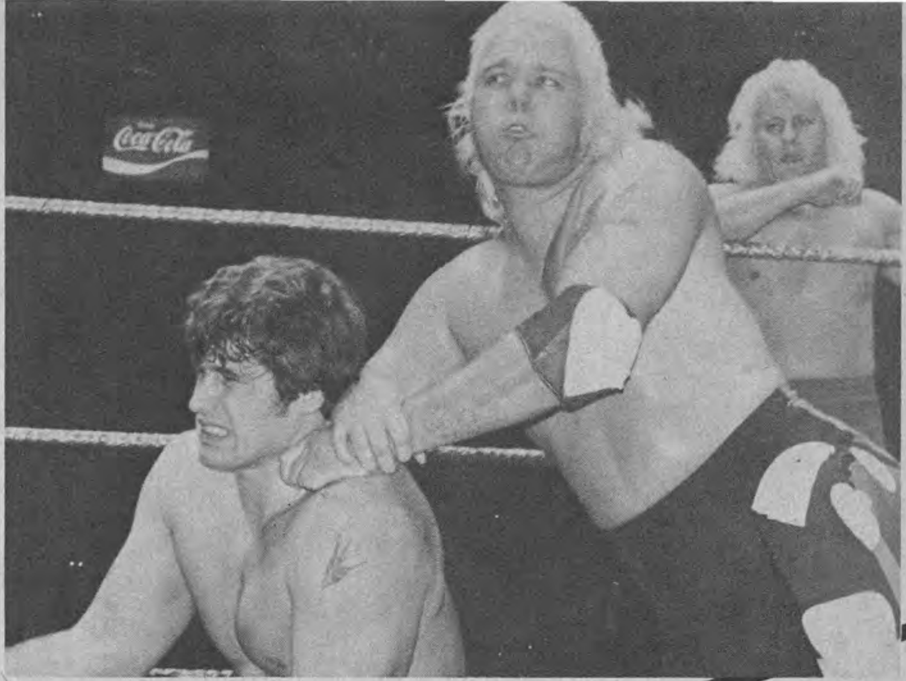
AND NO ONE CAN STOP THE

THE FAT FACE curled with displeasure at the posed portrait of the two beared men.

Sighing, Lou Albano seized the pictures of former WWWF tag team champions The Lumberjacks, and slid it face down on the desk.

"Losers," Albano screamed

ack...



Once again, the most hated and feared tag team of all time has returned to the WWWF. Jim and John Valiant are determined to again wear the tag team championship belts and wreak their twisted kind of havoc. Can anyone save wrestling from such terror?

The Valiant Brothers tag team combination is back and already they are causing chaos in the WWWF.

M!

as he pounded the back of the picture with his fisted left hand. "I don't want losers anymore. Give me champs to work with. Ah, give me champions like . . ." His voice faded within the saddened folds of his bearded face.

That was several months ago. Now the despair is gone and replaced by gleeful anticipation. Albano rubbed his hands together.

"Oh, baby, my boys are back, my champs are coming back! Can you dig that, can you?" the Captain chuckled.

"The "boys" are none other than The Valiant Brothers. Handsome Jim and Luscious John. They have returned to the WWWF after a considerable absence, eager to rebuild the extraordinary following they created among area fans.

Rarely will a tag team receive top billing on a card. Yet the Valiants were regularly the main event at several WWWF arenas. Their hip speech patterns, arrogant attitudes and brutally exciting ring maneuvers made them wrestling's top tag team and the WWWF titleholders.

Then the lights dimmed and darkened to mere bulbs. Victor Rivera and Dominic DeNucci defeated them for the WWWF belts.

Disillusioned, disheartened, and dismayed, they left the area.

"I can't face my people anymore," said Jim.

That was nearly two years

Former WWWF tag team champions, the Valiant Brothers, with their manager, Captain Louis Albano (above). Jimmy Valiant, confident of his wrestling skills, drags Jay Strongbow across the ring (top right). John Valiant has Tony Garea by the neck (right). Jimmy sends his opponent flying with a perfect hiproll (left). The team wants the belts of Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko.

ago. Two years filled with tortured, sleepless nights. Two years punctured by painful doubts.

"We're the best, baby. We knew no dudes like Rivera and DeNucci could whip us. We started thinking, hey, could we just be flashes, you know?" said John.

"Is this all there was for The Valiants? Such a brief passing and then, poof, gone we are, like some foreign comet or something," said Jim.

Hour after hour, day after day, week after week they pushed their bodies, conditioning the superb machines into devastating killing instruments.

And they waited for that one phone call.

"Man, when we heard the Captain's voice comin' over the wires, whoa, it was a trip, man. We knew all the work was for something," said Jim, laughing.

When word of their return reached the scientific wrestling world, predictable reactions echoed through the community.

"Ugly" and "Gruesome" are coming back?" sneered WWWF tag team co-champion Tony Garea. "What am I supposed to do, shiver in my boots?"

"They're as overrated a tag team as ever laced up two pairs of boots," snapped Garea's championship partner, Larry Zbyszko.

"Gee, I would like to wrestle them if I had a good tag team partner," said WWWF champion Bob Backlund. "But I don't think they're much."

Brave words to hide the undeniable. Truthfully, the Valiants are the equal of any tag team in wrestling, providing they're in shape.

"Shape?" said Jim as he hammered his stomach. "Like a rock, baby."

Undoubtedly, they will add an intriguing, unpredictable element to WWWF tag team matches.

"My boys are goin' to whip and pummel and cripple and all sorts of fun things," said Albano.

Unfortunately, he will probably be right. □

INTRODUCING SKIP YOUNG

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

WHEN MIL MASCARAS talks, people listen.

"That Skip Young has one of the finest flying dropkicks I have ever seen," Mascaras said. "His maneuvers would be impressive for anyone, but for someone as young as Skip, it is quite incredible."

Skip Young is well-built, agile, and exciting. His story is an interesting one, intriguing for the observations he offers about himself, his sport and our society.

"I trained with the Von Erichs," said Young, a handsome, personable wrestler with a quick, toothy smile. "David and Kevin are real good friends of mine and it was helpful to all of us working out together.

"We'd be able to spot any little mistakes and resolve them before we get into the ring."

Among the trio, there's friendly arguments over who helped who more.

"Skip is a great wrestler," said David.

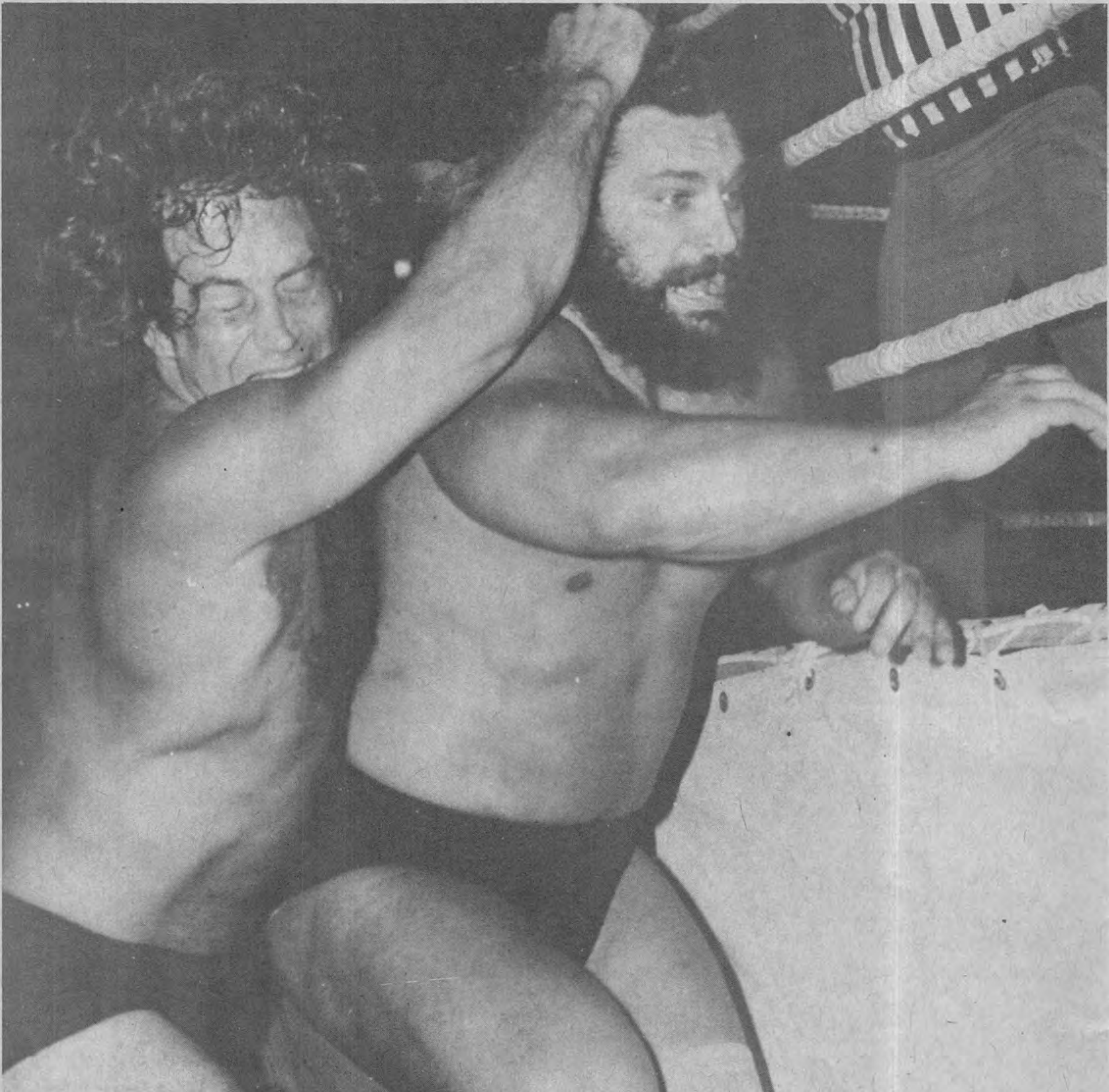
"Sometimes it would be frustrating because we couldn't physically do the flying maneuvers that Skip could do," said Kevin.

Those aerial gyrations are Young's greatest strength. His two specialties are the flying head

(Continued on page 50)

With the grace of an eagle and the strength of a tiger, Skip Young is fascinating fans all over the Mid-Atlantic area. However, the man himself proves to be more fascinating than any of his ring maneuvers!

Jack Brisco's Startling Confession:



"I'M NO BETTER THAN BRUISER BRODIE!"

ASHAMED, DOWNWARD slant of his eyes fixed Jack Brisco's gaze upon a harmless spot on the dirtied floor. His hands rolled in his lap, his quivering fingers clenching and unclenching in silent torment.

A weary sigh, a nervous tapping of the foot, eyes shutting and then a low mutter of fierce self-criticism.

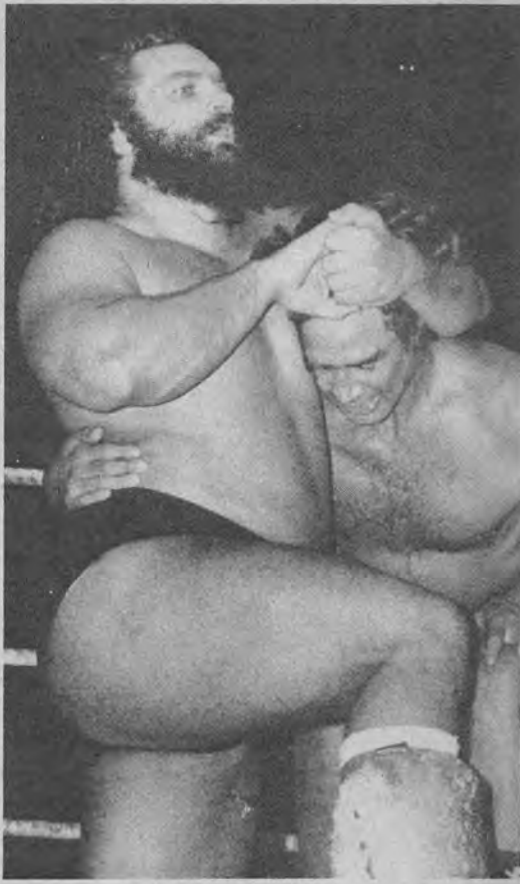
Brisco's feet slapped the floor, his hands fisted white and his eyes popped open, pupils bulging.

"I'm no better than Bruiser Brodie," Jack Brisco shouted as he kicked over a chair.

He whirled and buried his reddening face against the wall, hitting the concrete structure with now bloodied fists. The emotional convulsions gone, he regained his composure.

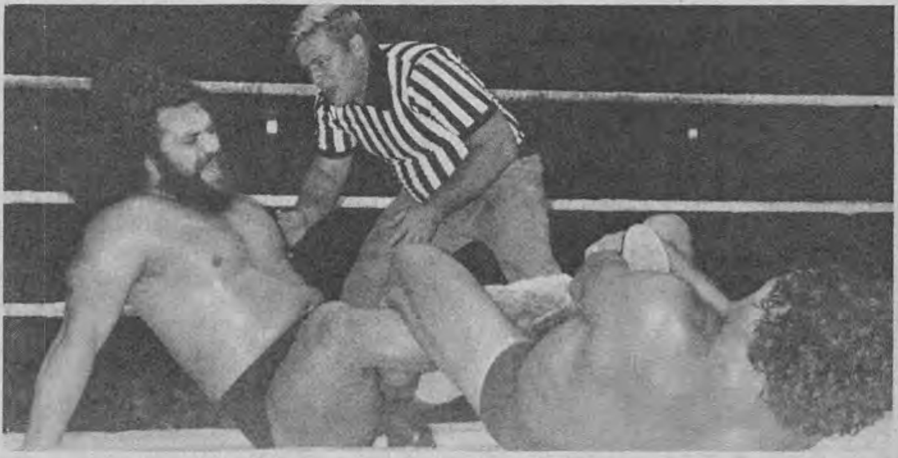
"I brawled with Brodie. I broke the rules. I kicked and gouged and acted like a deranged animal." His voice rose, then fell into a choked whisper.

"I won't make excuses for my behavior. I won't say that Brodie provoked me, because that's a cop-out. I'm a scientific wrestler, but more importantly, I'm supposed to be a model of clean wrestling. If you think of yourself as one thing, you can't go against that, make an excuse for it and then go back the way you were.



Above: The action spills out of the ring as Bruiser Brodie smashes Jack Brisco's head into the ring ladder. Right: Brodie catches the hapless Brisco in a headlock. Below: Jack has the match in control with his capture of Brodie in his famous figure-four leglock.

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM



Jack Brisco spoke and the wrestling community reeled from the words. When a respected grappler compares himself to Bruiser Brodie, it shakes the very foundation of the sport. Here are Jack's words, perhaps the most shocking quotes ever uttered by any beloved athlete!

"That's impossible. Once you commit a horrible act like I did tonight, you can never go back to what you were. Never."

This necessitates a dissection of despair, an autopsy of one man's grief and a search for the why's beneath the gruesome, hideous results.

Bruiser Brodie is a definite lunatic. His savage attacks on opponents, referees and fans are long and well-documented. Instances of Brodie provoking scientific wrestlers into maniacal brawls are not rare. Recently, Dusty Rhodes, a man with a leaning toward roughness, was involved in a bloody brawl with Brodie.

Still, Brodie is a vicious catalyst. And from observation of the Brisco-Brodie match, his illegal measures were predictable.

A knee in the groin. Brisco groaned, but did not lose his

(Continued on page 52)

"THE AX" IS SHARPER THAN EVER

HELLO, LARRY. It's so nice to have you back where you belong.

This is a tribute to you, Larry "The Ax" Hennig. So let the celebration begin!

You have been a dynamic, successful grappler for years. You faced all the top professionals. You bled with them. You sweated with them. You spent endless hours on the road with them. You gave everything in your heart when you wrestled because they paid you for it. But everyone knew that even if you wrestled for free, you would have wrestled just as hard. Most of all, Larry, they respected you.

Sure you had your share of enemies, but who in our violent sport doesn't? You had your feuds and several times you left the squared circle exhausted, bloody, and concerned with your health. But you went on. You had to. You knew no other way.

Then it happened to you, Larry. You got hurt. But it wasn't the usual wrestling injury that tough, rugged professionals bounce back from in a week or a month. It wasn't a broken bone caused by a

Larry "The Ax" Hennig (top) is back from a serious injury and AWA rulebreakers must beware! Super Destroyer II is about to realize that Hennig still has the power to battle the best (left).

PHOTOS BY BOB RUIZ

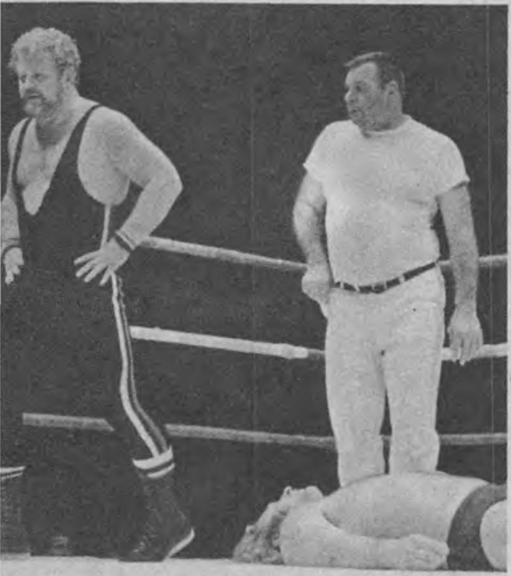
For months, Larry Hennig dropped out of sight. AWA rulebreakers breathed sighs of relief, for Hennig's skills sent more than one opponent into early retirement. But Hennig is back and he promises to make up for his absence with gusto!

sadistic rulebreaker. Broken bones always heal with time.

No, Larry. Your injury was worse. Who could ever forget the expression of agony on your twisted face the night it happened? You nearly passed out from the agony. They took you to the hospital with a police escort. The mysterious men with the grim faces in the emergency ward told you to expect the worst. They thought there was nerve damage. They were right. The said your career was over. "The Ax" had been blunted.

But you puzzled the doctors, Larry. With the wrestling world praying for your well-being, you fought and held on with every piece of heart you had. But the opposition wasn't a grizzly ring foe. The enemy was nerve damage to your neck. They said you would never appear inside a ring again. This time they were wrong. Don't blame them, Larry. They just didn't know how much man you were.

You are wrestling again, Larry. The AWA is lucky to have you back. You represent all of the fine qualities of scientific wrestling. Young mat stars will approach you for advice. Veterans will respect your every word. Promoters will flock to you because of your growing number of fans. And you will be polite and appreciative. Because you will remember that not long ago you lived in a hospital bed. You lay there helpless. You thank God you can use your body



effectively once again.

"I'm hungrier than ever," you said upon your return. "I want to tell all AWA rulebreakers that Larry "The Ax" Hennig is back and sharper than ever. They all better watch out and behave when they wrestle in the same ring with me. I have a new awareness of the days I spent in the hospital in traction and no one is gonna fool around illegally with this body." Amen, Larry.

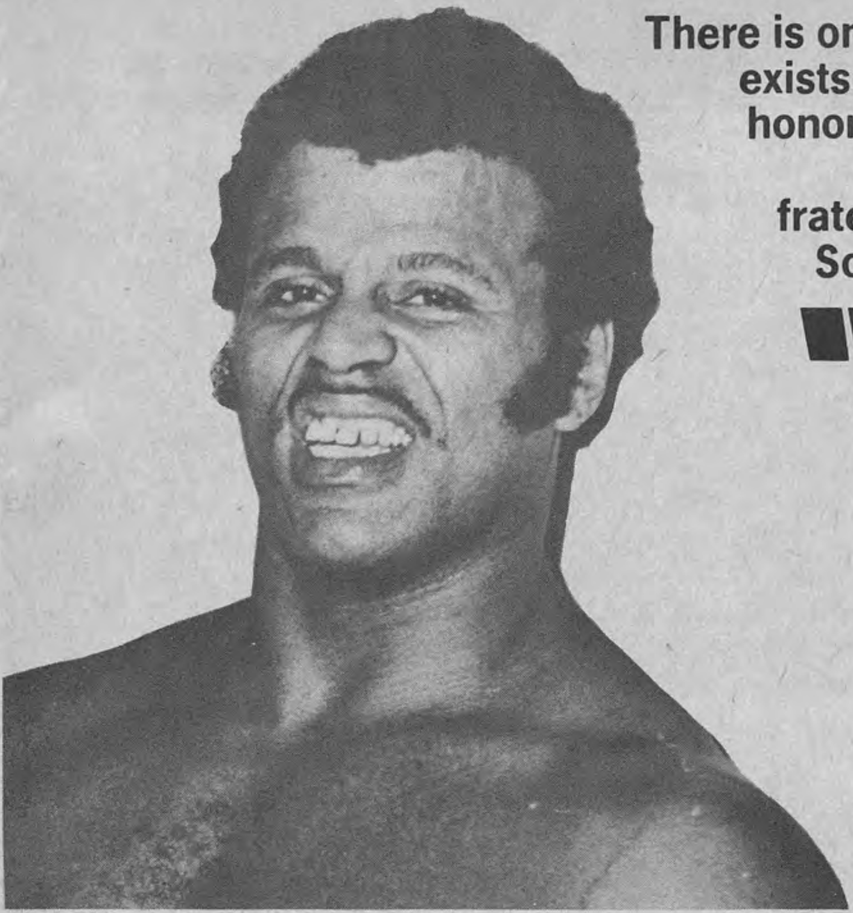
Rulebreakers like AWA champion Nick Bockwinkle still insult you, Larry. They say, "Hennig is back, so what? How can a washed up old man who had to be put back together by doctors ever wrestle effectively against anyone? When Heenan's boys are through with him, the doctors will be back to work. But this time they'll need glue to place the parts back together." You needn't worry, Larry. They speak with fear.

Perhaps Verne Gagne, always an eloquent man, says it best, Larry. "Even I never thought 'The Ax' would wrestle again," Verne admitted. "When I heard he was coming back to the AWA, I called every scientific wrestler I knew and told them the good news. We are all thankful that Larry will continue to combat the dreaded disease known as rulebreaking once again. The AWA is a safer place to wrestle with 'The Ax' around."

But the nicest tribute of all, Larry, came just a short time ago. Jim Brunzell got together with some of the boys like Mighty Igor and Greg Gagne and threw you a monster of a welcome home party. Tears filled your eyes and you were deeply touched. Then they gave you a gift, Larry. A sterling silver ax. You knew they accepted you back. You were home.

So go out there and give them hell, Larry. You've been down to the bottom. Now rise back to the top. We don't think it will take too long. Good luck. □

Hennig uses tremendous leverage in sending a forearm to the neck of a prone Super Destroyer II (top left). Hennig triumphantly struts away after pinning AWA champion Nick Bockwinkle in the first fall of a title match in 1976. Hennig is back in action but he is in trouble against an aggressive Bob Orton Jr. (below). Orton is exactly the type of AWA rulebreaker Hennig would like to send into retirement.

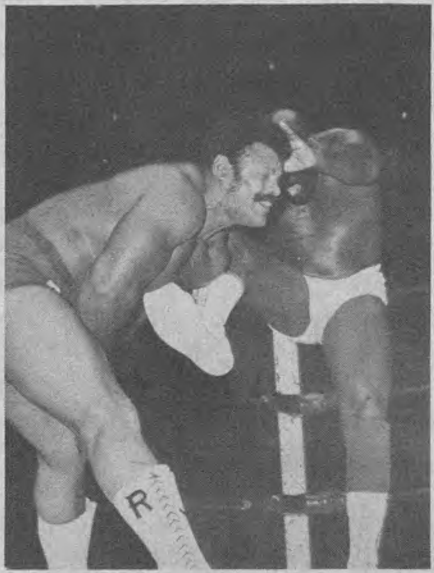


There is only one true bond, the one that exists between men who believe in honor, dignity and integrity. Rocky Johnson belongs to that noble fraternity. He will die before letting Sonny King disgrace his beliefs

"DON'T CALL ME BROTHER, SONNY KING!"

The popular Rocky Johnson takes tremendous pride in his heritage. Sonny King damaged that pride and Rocky punished his opponent for it.

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN



Sonny King tried everything to upset Rocky Johnson, including an illegal kick to the chest.

BROTHER. BETWEEN FAMILY members, it expresses the blood relationship between siblings. Brother. Between friends, it conveys more than friendship. It conveys the love of a comrade.

Among blacks, "brother" falls between a casual greeting and a fiercely unifying slogan. When the concept is abused, betrayed rage is likely to result.

As it did with Rocky Johnson.

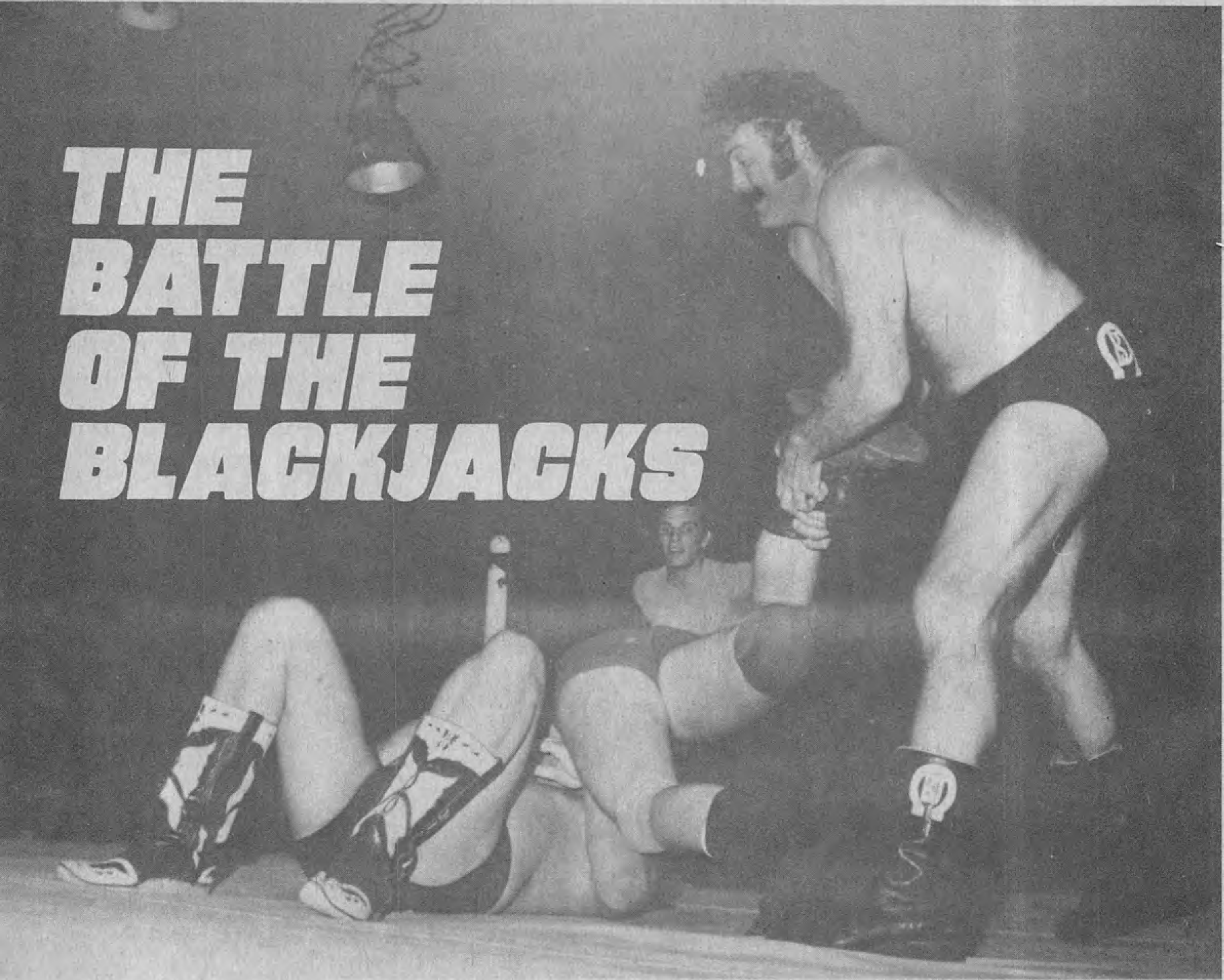
"Sonny King is a disgrace, but it hurt me a lot more because he had the nerve, the very gall to call me 'brother'," yelled Johnson in an uncharacteristic rage.

"That man is not a wrestler. He's not even a human being. But he dared to misuse a word with great meaning to me."

Johnson's condition is explainable. While competing in Florida, rulebreaking wrestler and manager Sonny King went berserk. Though differentiating between berserk and normal with Sonny King is difficult. He

(Continued on page 54)

Lanza vs. Mulligan:



AT A RECENT press conference in AWA territory, we heard words we never thought would be spoken. The orator was Blackjack Lanza. The audience, the veteran wrestling journalists of America, sat in stunned silence.

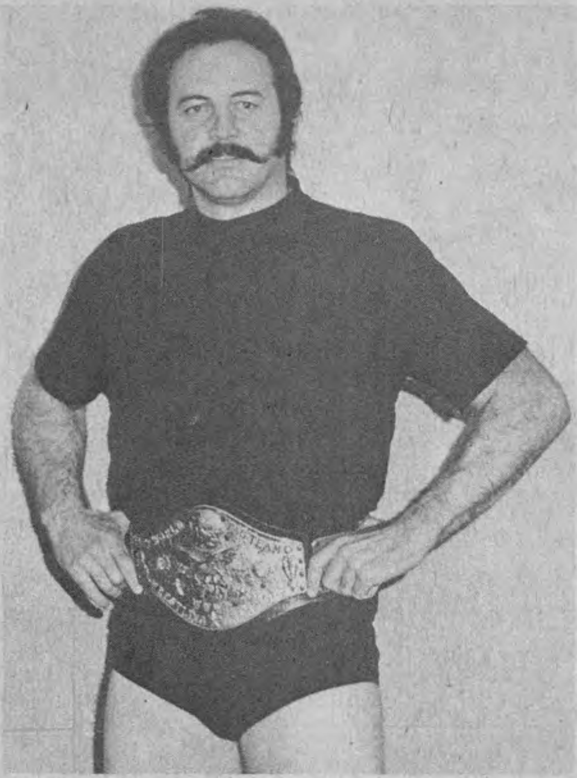
"No one here has to be told what Blackjack Mulligan means to me as a friend," Lanza began. "We go back many years and our friendship needs no documentation. Needless to say, Mulligan's recent behavior disturbs me greatly. You all know that I have been in touch with Mulligan several times since he turned on the real heroes like Ric Flair and Greg Valentine. I have tried to persuade him to go back to the style that made him a wrestling giant.

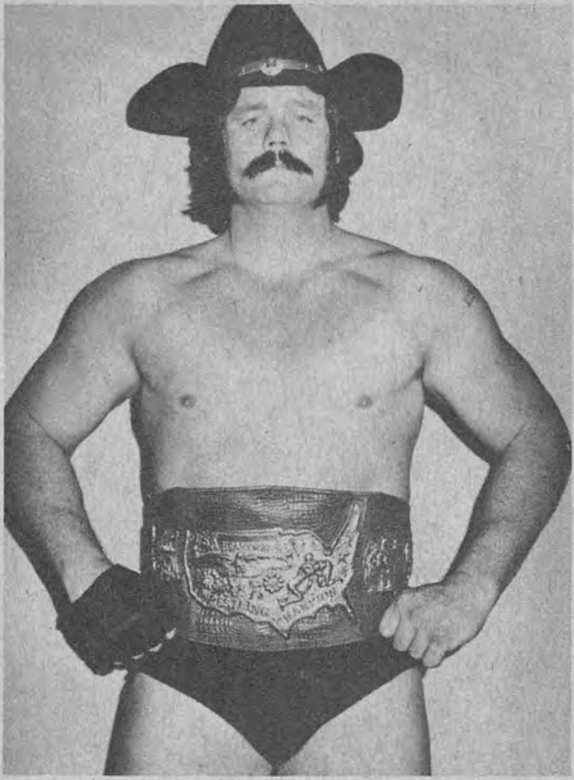
"He would not listen. Unfortunately, he seems determined in his decision. What my old tag team partner has done is a disgrace to rulebreaking and a disgrace to the name of 'Blackjack'. Promoters have approached me about a future match, and as much as I hate to admit it, if the money was right, I would try to teach Blackjack Mulligan a lesson in the ring. It would be a bloody affair."

Mulligan versus Lanza? Can it be? Has a fantasy world enveloped our minds? Butch Cassidy never fought the Sundance Kid. Bonnie never left Clyde. Jesse and Frank James never feuded. Mulligan versus Lanza? The Blackjacks at war? Must be a misdeal.

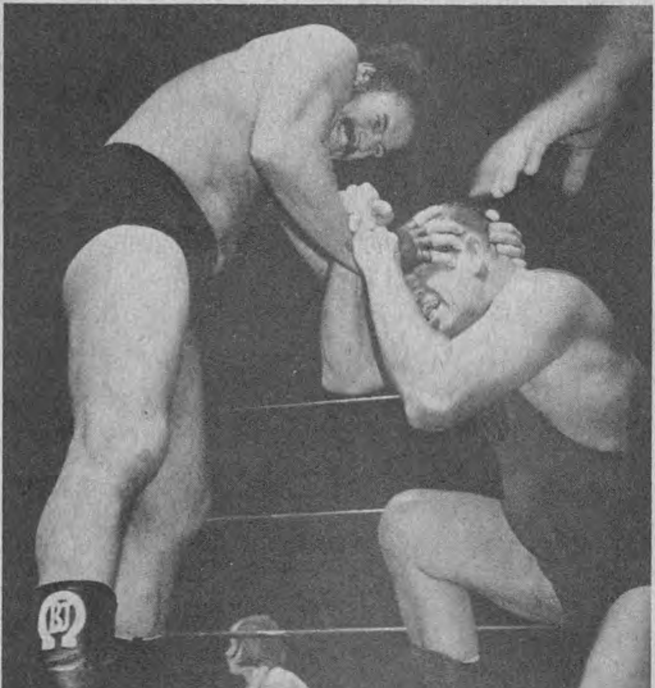
Many long-time wrestling

(Continued on page 62)

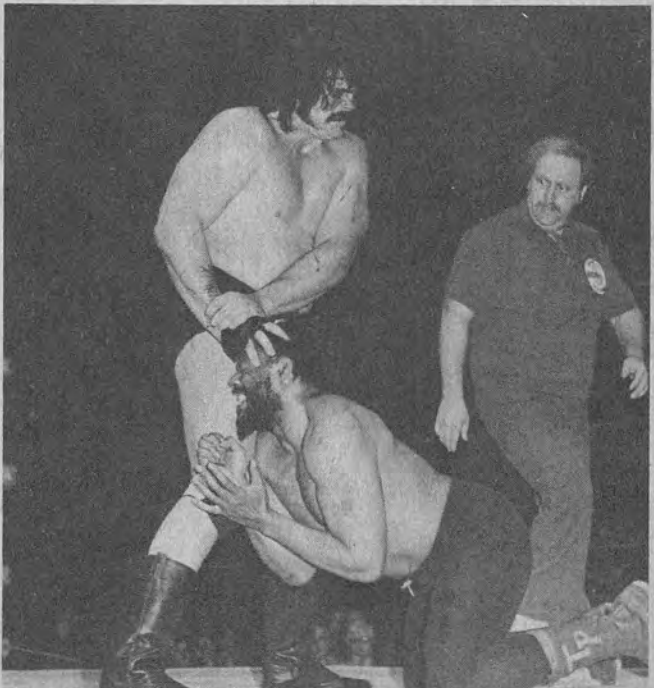




No two wrestlers were ever closer than Blackjack Mulligan and Blackjack Lanza. Now, the two men consider facing each other from opposite sides of the ring. If they wrestle, they knew they would be destroying a little bit of themselves

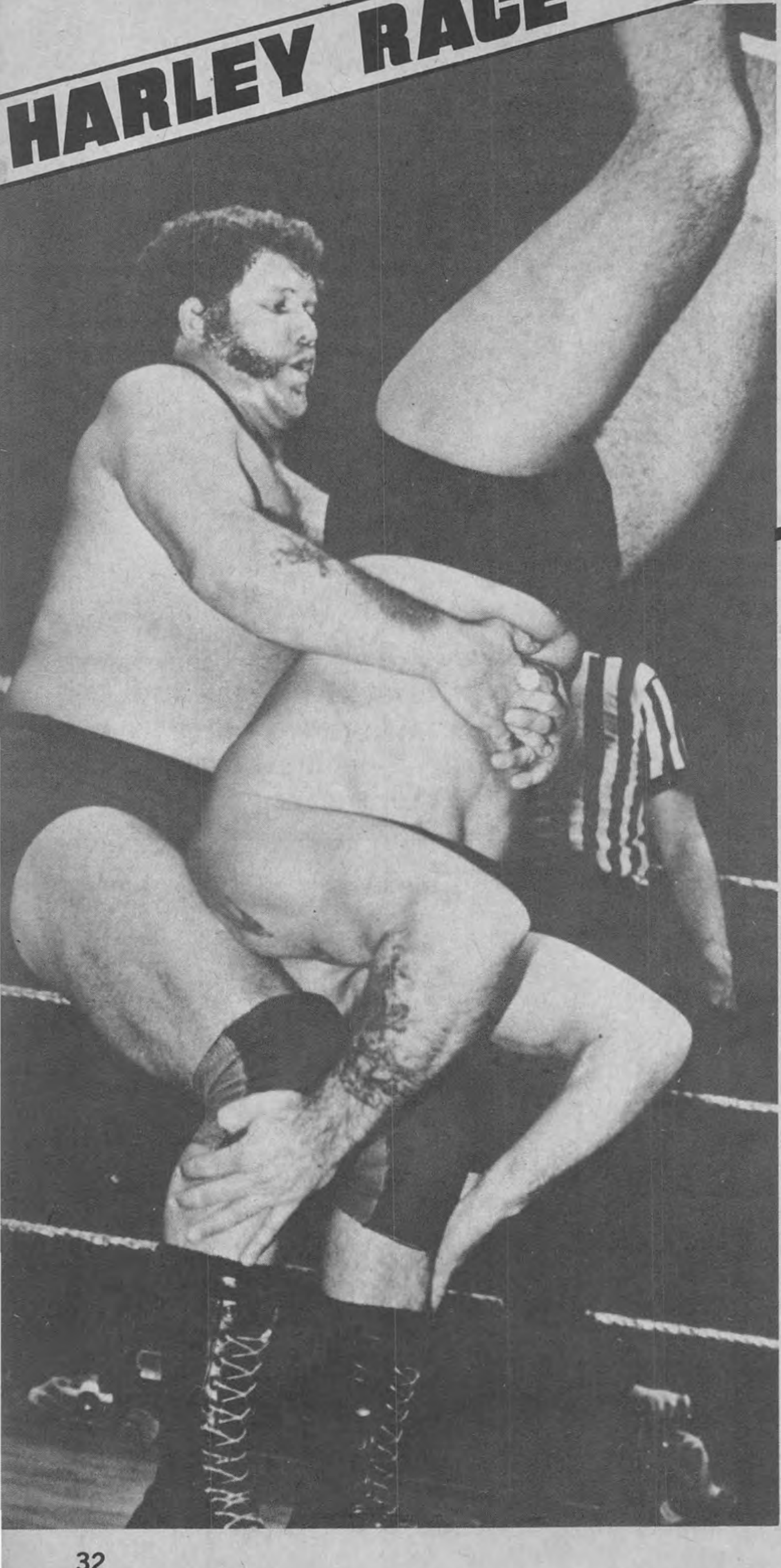


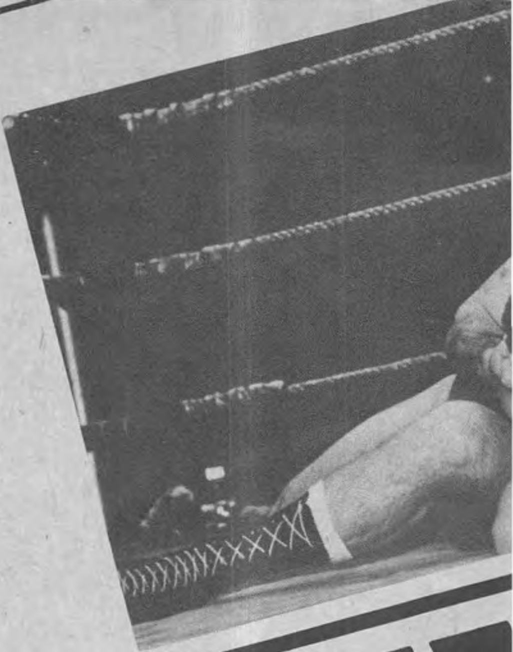
Blackjack Lanza tortures Fritz Von Erich in a clawhold (above). This agony is what Lanza hopes to inflict upon the man who was his closest friend, Blackjack Mulligan.



Though blood drips down his body, Blackjack Mulligan torments Thunderbolt Patterson with a clawhold (above). Blackjack Lanza will receive even less mercy.

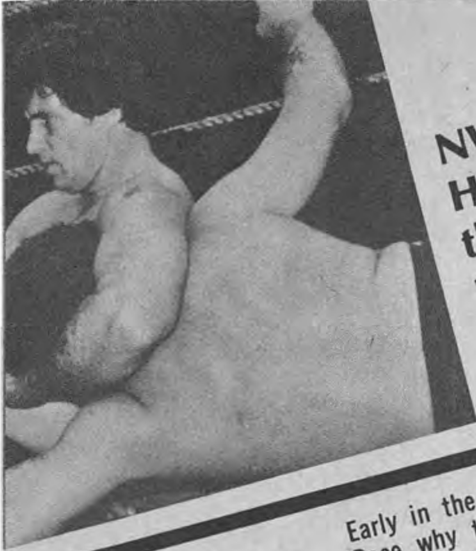
HARLEY RACE





NEW P

Harley storms into the WWWF by battering the respected Tony Garea (left and below).

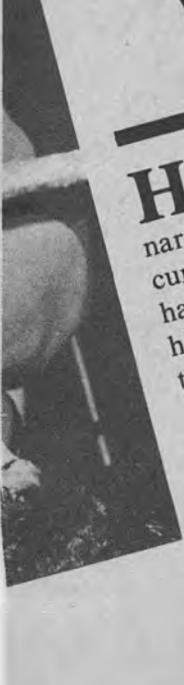


NWA champion Harley Race may be the most ambitious man in wrestling. Not content to own one title, he wants to be the only champion. Here, revealed for the first time, is his secret plan to conquer the WWWF!

Early in the match, Tony Garea shows Race why the action is tough in the WWWF (above and right). Harley had to suffer pain and frustration before the brutal bout ended.

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

N OWER IN THE WWWF



HELLISH DEVILS ROMPED through Harley Race's narrowed, dark eyes. His mouth curled back in a sneer, and his hands clasped together. He shook his fist at his patient foe across the ring.

Around them, a curious Madison Square Garden crowd waited for what may have been its first personal look at the NWA champion.

This may be *the* wrestling news story of 1979. Harley Race has invaded the WWWF. And he wants Bob Backlund.

"I didn't come up here to sightsee and I didn't come up for the money," said Race after his brutish match with Tony Garea. "I came up here for two good reasons.

"The first is to show WWWF fans what a champion looks like. Backlund looks like something I used to fish for when I was a kid. You'd catch it and slice it open and feed it to the pigs on Saturday.

"A real champion has brawn and brains. He is a tough he-man type who's not willing to show mercy to his opponent during the match.

"Hah, I just described me," Race said, chuckling.. "Backlund doesn't have any of those attributes.

"A champion should be rough. Backlund's a little boy. I respect WWWF fans and feel bad for them because they have to put up with a birdbrain like Howdy Doody."

First on the road to Backlund's belt was Tony Garea. Tony wanted to quickly end Harley's visit.

"I wasn't planning on leaving Backlund anything to wrestle," *(Continued on page 64)*

Paul Jones - Rick

WHO REALLY BLA

IT WOULD BE very easy to blame Paul Jones for the breakup of his partnership with Rick Steamboat. After all, it was Jones who insisted they wrestle on the fateful night to decide the battle royal. Steamboat suggested they forget a decisive match and simply split the prize money.

And, despite Jones' contentions, it was he who introduced brutality into the match. It was Jones who did the rulebreaking.

Seemingly, it was Jones who was the aggressor and the guilty party.

But this surface view is misleading. It deals only with the results of Paul Jones' rage, not the cause. It ignores the mounting pressure within Jones. The frustrations and anger that built up.

This is not the classic case of scientific wrestler turning rulebreaker due to greed or vengeful viciousness.

Rick Steamboat is not at fault here. But neither is Paul Jones.

Wrestling is the culprit.

It is natural for a young, handsome, talented wrestler like Steamboat to receive acclaim. Every sport needs the young superstars. They are the nourishment of the sport. Still, this unbalanced tendency to channel praise to certain wrestlers hurts the others. The young veterans, the quiet men

A cocky, confident Paul Jones (above) does not regret his feud with former partner Rick Steamboat. Jones piledrives Steamboat (right), trying desperately to cripple him. Most observers blame Jones for the betrayal. But is he really the culprit?

Steamboat Feud:

...D IS ...LY TO ...ME?

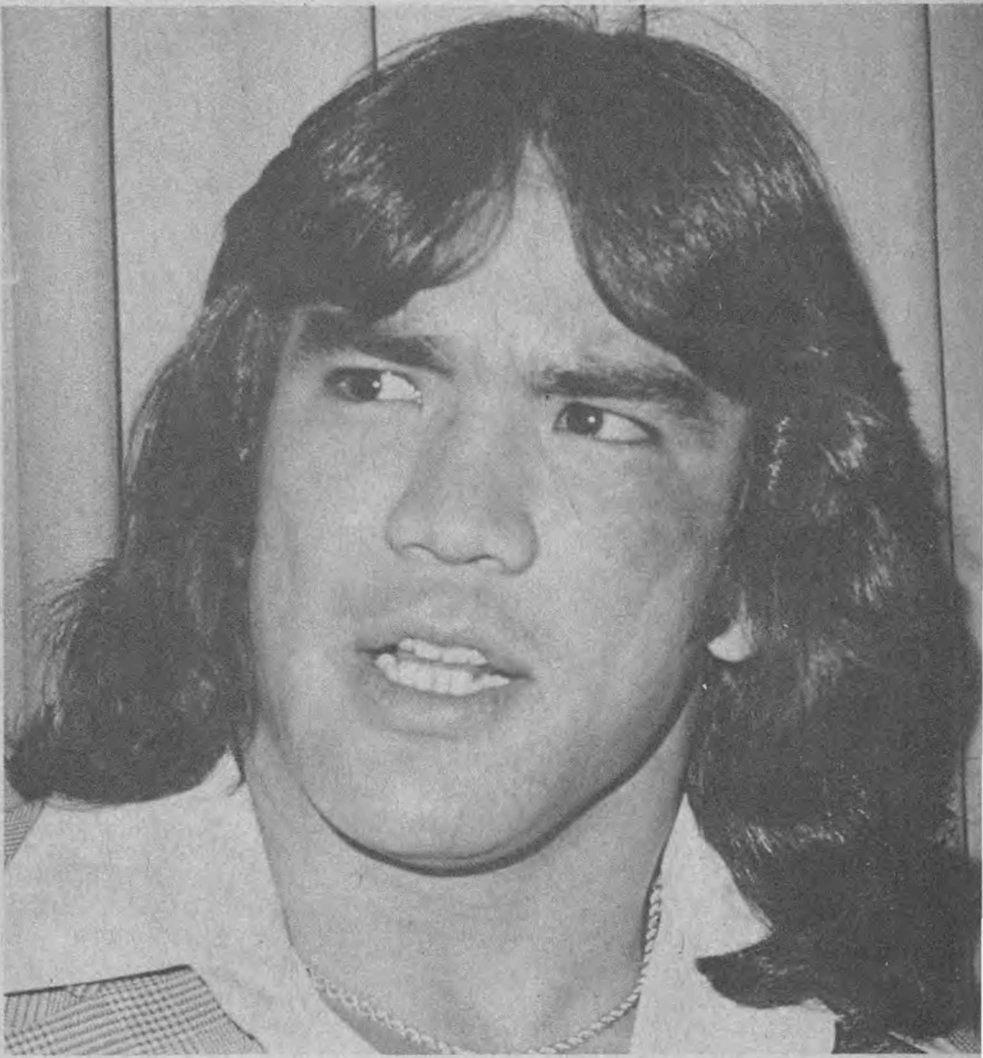
suffer. The guys who silently go about their jobs, act as professionals, avoid brawling feuds and treat the fans nicely.

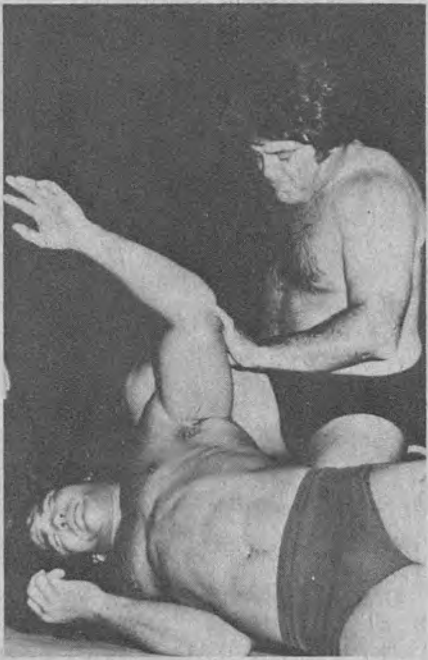
The silent men. Like Paul Jones.

He paid for his natural decency. He stifled the anger when partner Rick Steamboat received all the credit for the tag team's title success. He choked back the growing resentment when fans showered adulation on Steamboat. He became the helpless victim of a system designed to elevate the superstars while ignoring the stars.

The system forced Paul Jones to open up. The system forced him to brawl, to yell, to cry out and betray.

Turning rulebreaker was the





A furious, confused Rick Steamboat (above) cannot understand why Paul Jones turned so savagely on him. Jones punished Steamboat (left) in the finale of a battle royal. Jones insisted on battling for first-place money instead of splitting it.

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

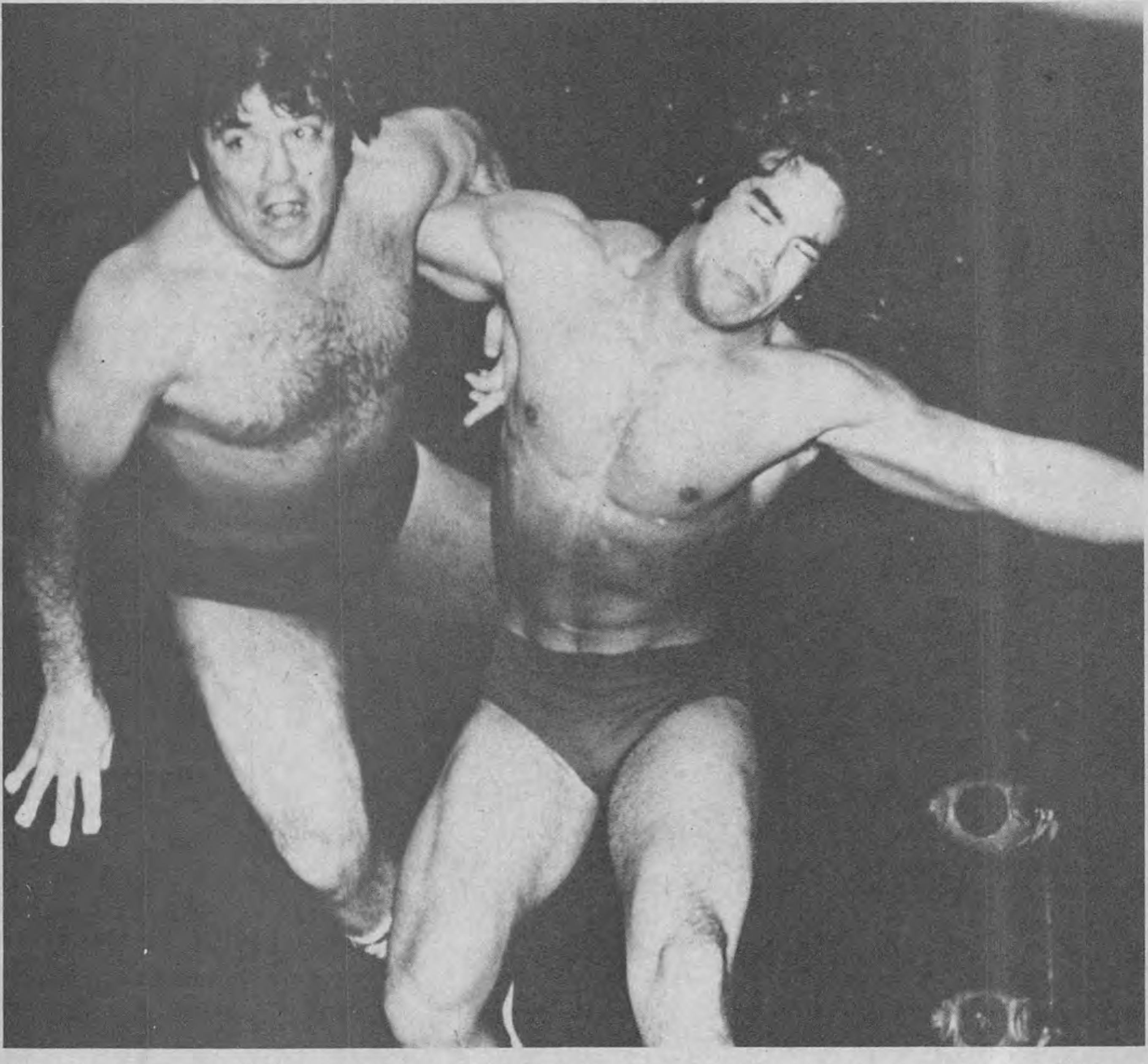
Most fans consider rulebreaker Paul Jones the greatest traitor in the history of wrestling. Yet all the facts aren't known. The true reasons for Paul's conversion could turn the fans' boos into sobs!

only way Paul Jones could get attention.

That is the tragedy of all this.

At no time should this be considered a criticism of Jones' skills. He is an enormously talented grappler. He has all the physical and mental abilities to be fans swiftly respond to him, without struggling to decide where to shower their affection.

That is what gnawed at Paul Jones, chomped and chewed until his dreams were bloodied bones and his mind a tremendous tornado of



Steamboat hiprolls a startled Jones (above). Steamboat cannot remove the feeling of betrayal from his heart.

confused hate. His inherent decency was a tattered emblem of non-existent land.

Paul Jones had to strike back. He had to attack something or someone. He could not attack the system. It was too large.

He could not attack the fans. They were merely happy swimmers in these murky waters.

He could not physically attack the press, though the temptation was great. It would have been a useless gesture.

That left him with one ready target for his frustrations. One figure encompassed enough of the reasons for his anguish. One man aroused enough hate. A man who would strike back and thus feed the hate until it was a mindless beast ravaging his very soul.

NWA champion. This is not to say, theoretically, that Rick Steamboat is better than Paul Jones.

No. Steamboat simply looks like a matinee idol and wrestles like one. He is easier to love. The

Paul Jones had to attack Rick Steamboat. He had to evoke pained surprise. He wanted to shock the fans, the press and the entire wrestling world.

Which, by this one unfortu-

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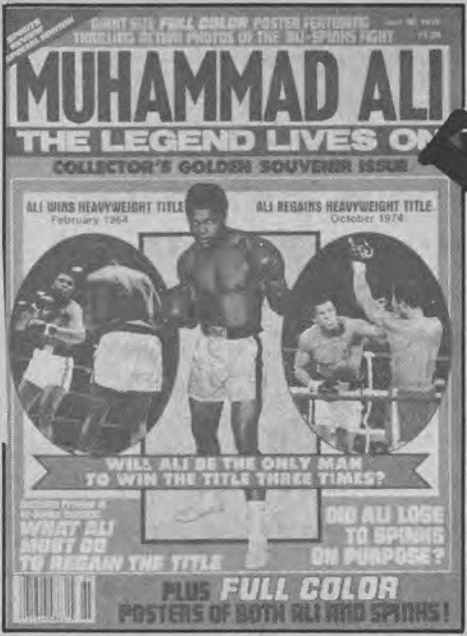

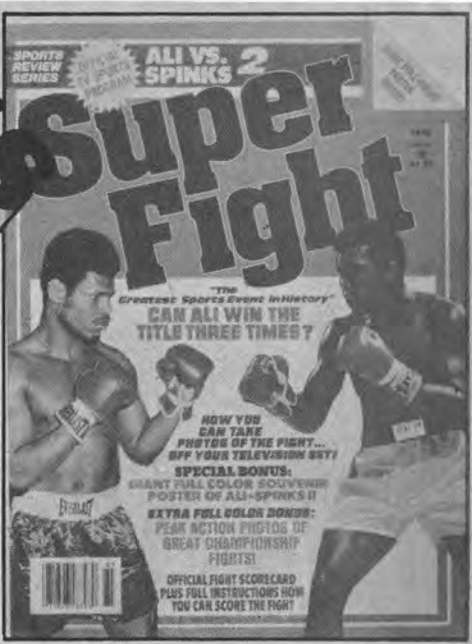

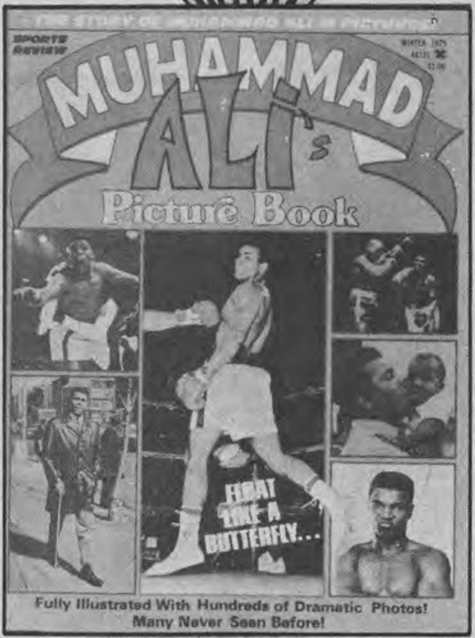

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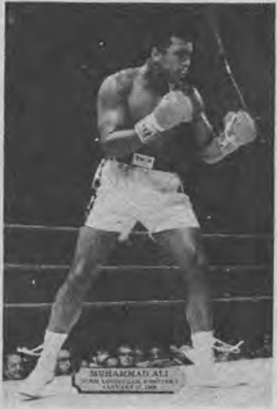

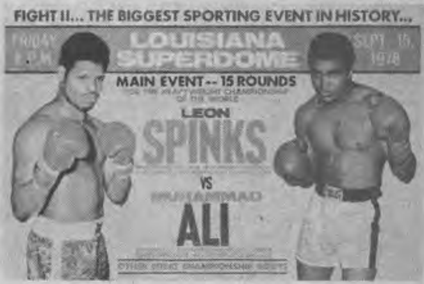

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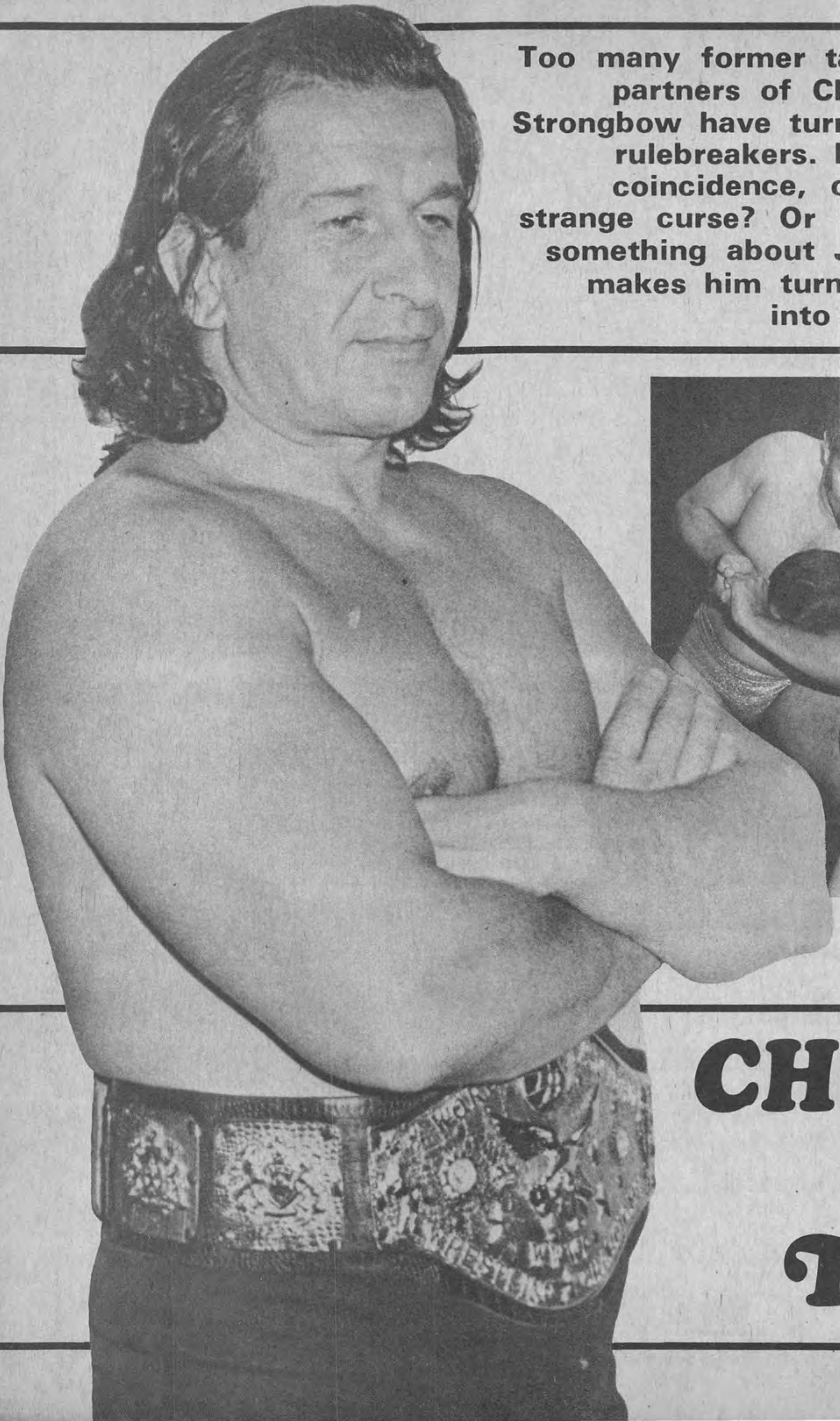
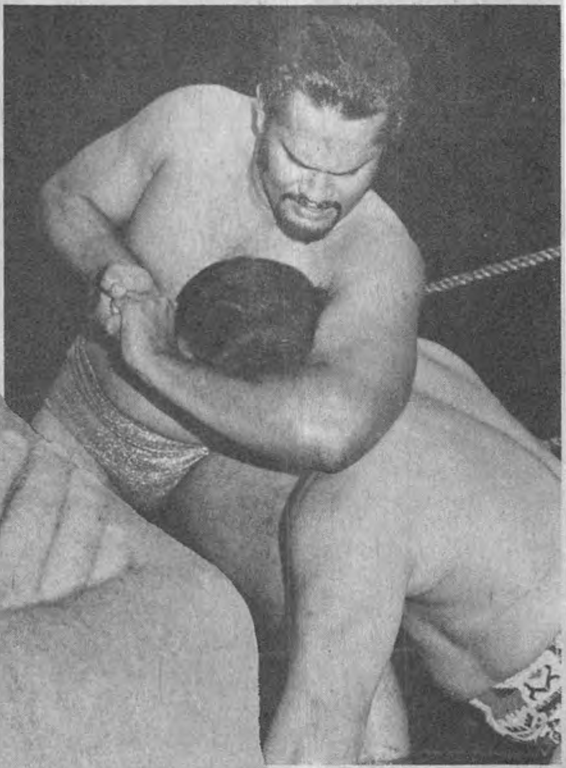
Too many former tag team partners of Chief Jay Strongbow have turned into rulebreakers. Is this a coincidence, or some strange curse? Or is there something about Jay that makes him turn friends into traitors?





CHIEF AN TAG

SONNY KING. Spiros Arion. Victor Rivera. Peter Maivia. What do these men have in common?

Think. Oh, sure, the obvious conclusion is easy. Any responsible fan knows that all four men are converted rulebreakers.

But go back a few years. Go back beyond their conversion. Does a glimmer pierce the memory? All were once scientific wrestlers. They weren't born bad, were they?

Okay. Now follow closely, gang. When these four cockroaches were still models of grappling decency, they had the same tag team partner at different periods.

Anyone guess yet? All those who are ready to resolve one of wrestling's most profound mysteries raise your hands. The rest of you, those who were unable to figure this out so far, shame, shame.

Ready? Victor Rivera and Chief Jay Strongbow. Sprios Arion and Chief Jay Strongbow. Sonny King and Chief Jay Strongbow. Peter Maivia and Chief Jay Strongbow.

Is there a connection between Chief Jay Strongbow and the conversion of scientific wrestlers to rulebreaking?

"That's a ridicuous thing to say," said Strongbow. "Their switch of styles had nothing to

One of Strongbow's former tag team partners, High Chief Peter Maivia is now hurting Jay (above) instead of helping him (below).

do with me. If anything, maybe I kept them wrestling scientifically longer than they would have, had they not teamed with me."

An interesting point, but one which sheds no new information on the problem. Now for the rulebreakers' side.

"When we were champs, Strongbow wanted to hog all the glory," said King. "He wouldn't share nothing with anyone."

"I had to do something to gain credit," said Arion. "I was always pushed into the background."

"Turn rulebreaker? I was already a rulebreaker when I wrestled with him," said Maivia.

Please explain that one.

"In a tag team, there's always one guy who has to do something of the dirty work," Peter said. "One guy has to absorb more of the punishment and do more of the tricky, nasty maneuvers. When you team with Strongbow, he refuses to do any of that. So I was really rulebreaking when I was with him."

This is as much a criticism of Strongbow as it is of the tag team system. Do these accusations make a pure scientific wrestling tag team possible?

"You take a guy like Strongbow or Backlund as a partner, okay?" said Rivera. "Look at Backlund. He's such a good person, that wholesome image and all. No chance he will ever get down and do the hard

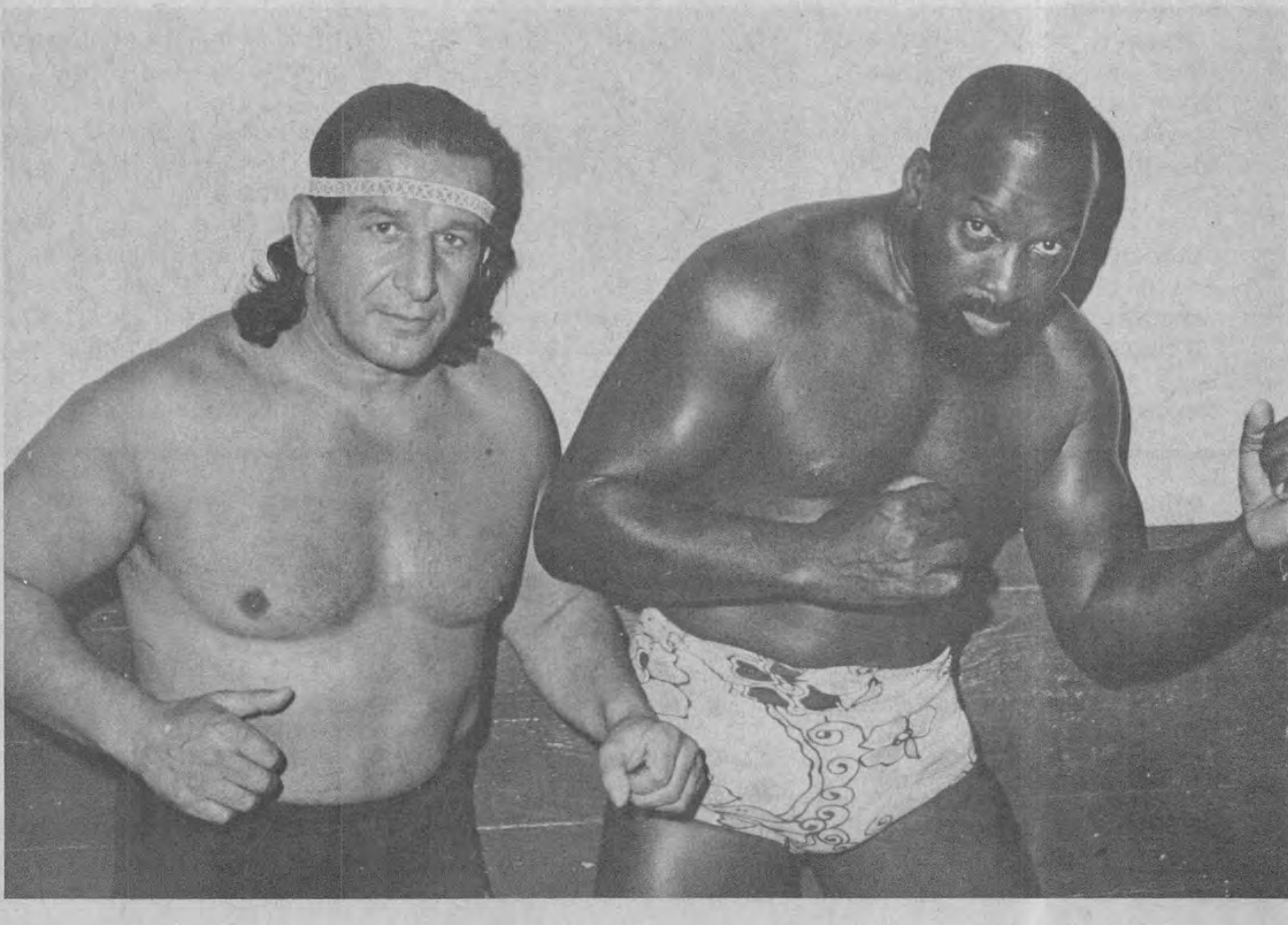
JAY STRONGBOW
D THE GREAT
TEAM MYSTERY

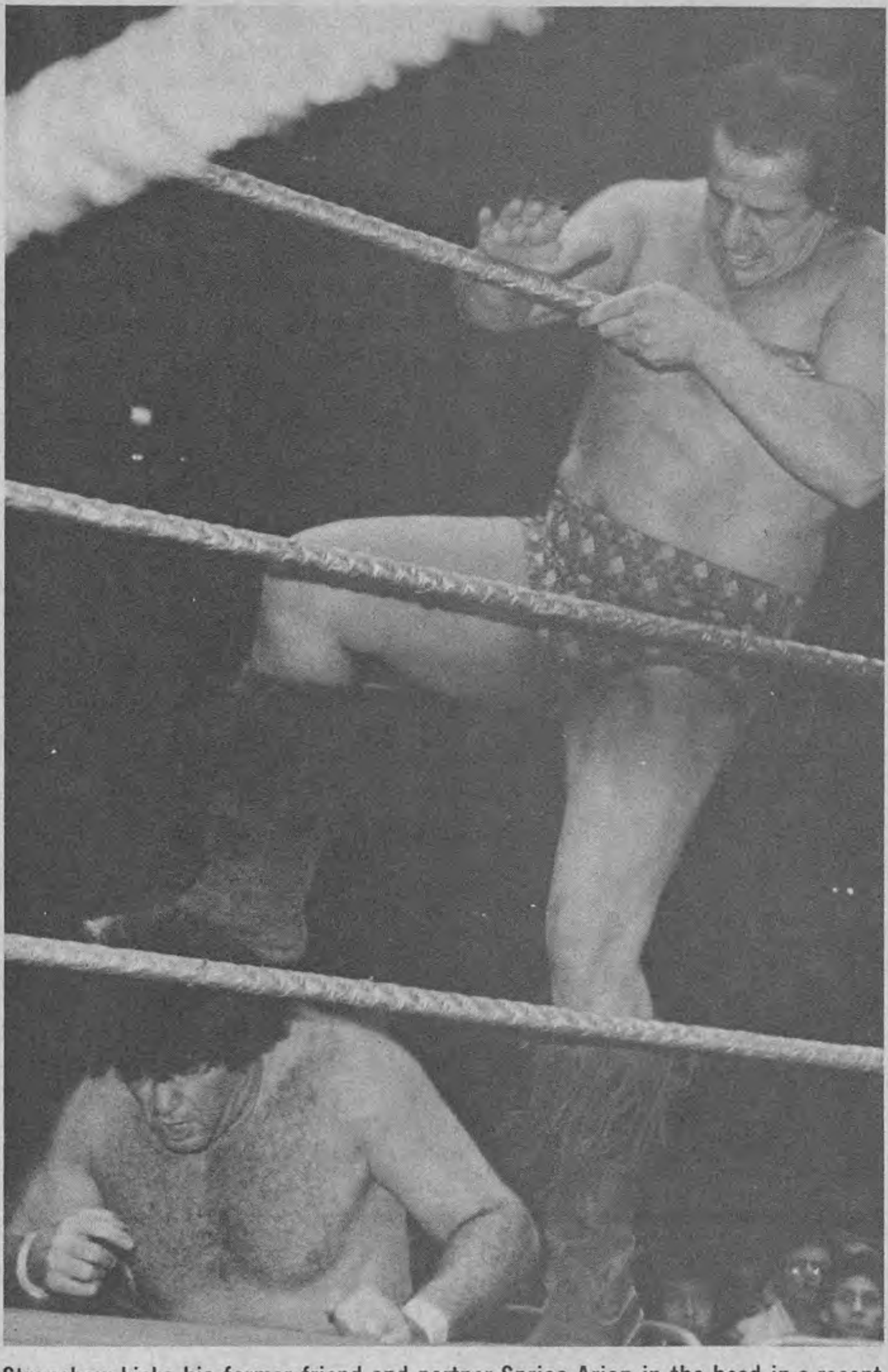
work, the little pulls and twists that make the difference between victory and defeat.

"That's why Peter Maivia went berserk and turned on Backlund. That's why Strongbows drives his partners to rulebreaking. We had no choice. If we're going to break rules, we might as well get the glory and money, instead of having that Indian steal it all for our blood."

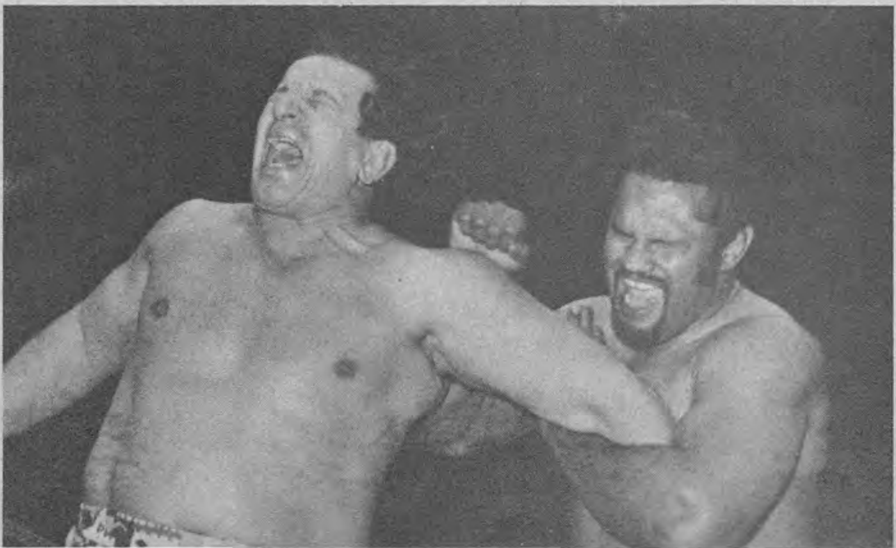
Surprisingly, Strongbow doesn't totally reject such suggestions.

Spiros Arion punishes Strongbow in an effective armlock (left). Arion is also a former tag team partner of Jay. Spiros now wrestles as a rulebreaker, like Jay's other former partners. Sonny King is yet another tag team partner of Strongbow who turned to rulebreaking (below). What explains the trend Strongbow's partners all follow?





Strongbow kicks his former friend and partner Sprios Arion in the head in a recent match (above). The Chief can't understand why his former partners continually turn to rulebreaking. Victor Rivera (below) is another prime example.



"Sure, both guys can't wrestle scientifically all the time," Jay said. "Sometimes one will have to stretch the rules a bit. But that's rare. And I've had to do things I wasn't proud of. That occasionally happens.

"But there are a lot of fine tag teams in which the guys never turn to rulebreaking. Like Dino Bravo and Dominic DeNucci. Or Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko. They haven't turned yet. So to blame me or the sytem is a lot of bunk. That's just a handy escape hatch for their own failings."

Is a good tag team successful despite the inevitable workings of such a partnership? Or are men like Arion and Rivera the exceptions instead of the normal cases?

"Strongbow tries to come off as a good man. That's not me," snapped King. "I remember one time he didn't want any pictures taken of us wearing the title belts. Can you believe that? He nearly hit the photographer.

"It drove me nuts. I won't take that. I wanted to smash his red face into a thousand little pieces. Sure, he made me a rulebreaker. What if he had done the dirty work and I was able to sit in the corner, smile and put on the finishing move? You'd be writing a story about how Sonny King turns his partners into rulebreakers."

Riding to Strongbow's defense is none other than ex-WWWF tag team champion Dino Bravo.

"Jay is absolutely right. Those creeps would have turned rulebreaker no matter. They wanted an excuse. Forming a tag team and perfecting it is the greatest experience for a wrestler. To downgrade it with such senseless criticism is to cheapen a great aspect of wrestling." □

SALIVA LANDS UPON the teeth, then falls in slow lumps over the quivering lower lip until the thick stream rests upon the square chin.

A spasmodic tongue twitches, propelling more spit. A throaty moan pierces the clenched teeth, parts them and reveals the rigid tongue and an evil smile.

Finally Ken Patera speaks. The vicious words match the animalistic effort.

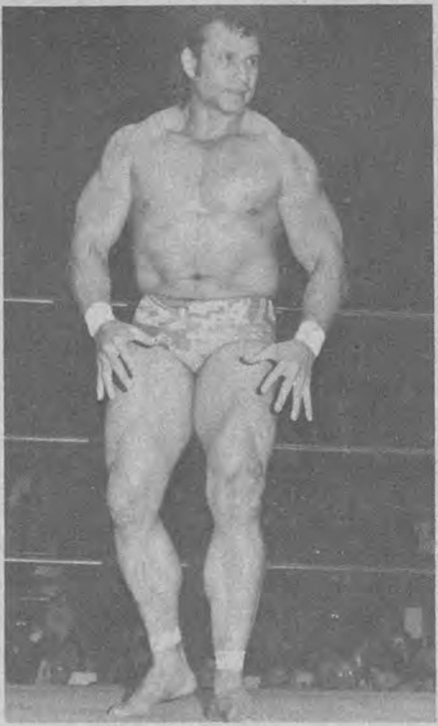
"Jimmy Snuka climbs down out of a tree and challenges me?" Patera said, laughing. "That jungle boy is going to beat me?"

Jungle boy. Remember that insulting phrase for a moment. Remember the connotations it has for a native of the Fiji Islands.

Jungle boy. It represents a primitive mind, a savage soul, a backward beast and a simple creature inferior to the advanced treacherous cries of a clever man such as Ken Patera.

The phase digs deeply into Snuka's soul and discharges clumps of nerves throughout his body.

"Jungle boy? He called me that. How, how . . ." Snuka's shocked words disappeared into a gaping pool of contempt. A soft, humorless smile appeared, remained for a brief, thoughtful moment and vanishes before a rageful cry that shook the room.



The muscular flying star of the Fiji Islands, Jimmy Snuka (left) prepares to battle Ken Patera. Snuka is a sensation in the Mid-Atlantic area.

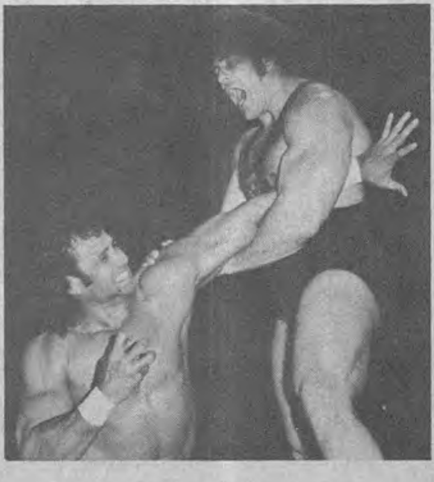
Jimmy Snuka wanted to teach Ken Patera a lesson.

And he did.

Several times, the temptation to descend into the same style of rulebreaking deceit touched Snuka. He paused, tightened his grip, felt the clenched fist unthinkingly drift toward Patera's face and reconsidered.

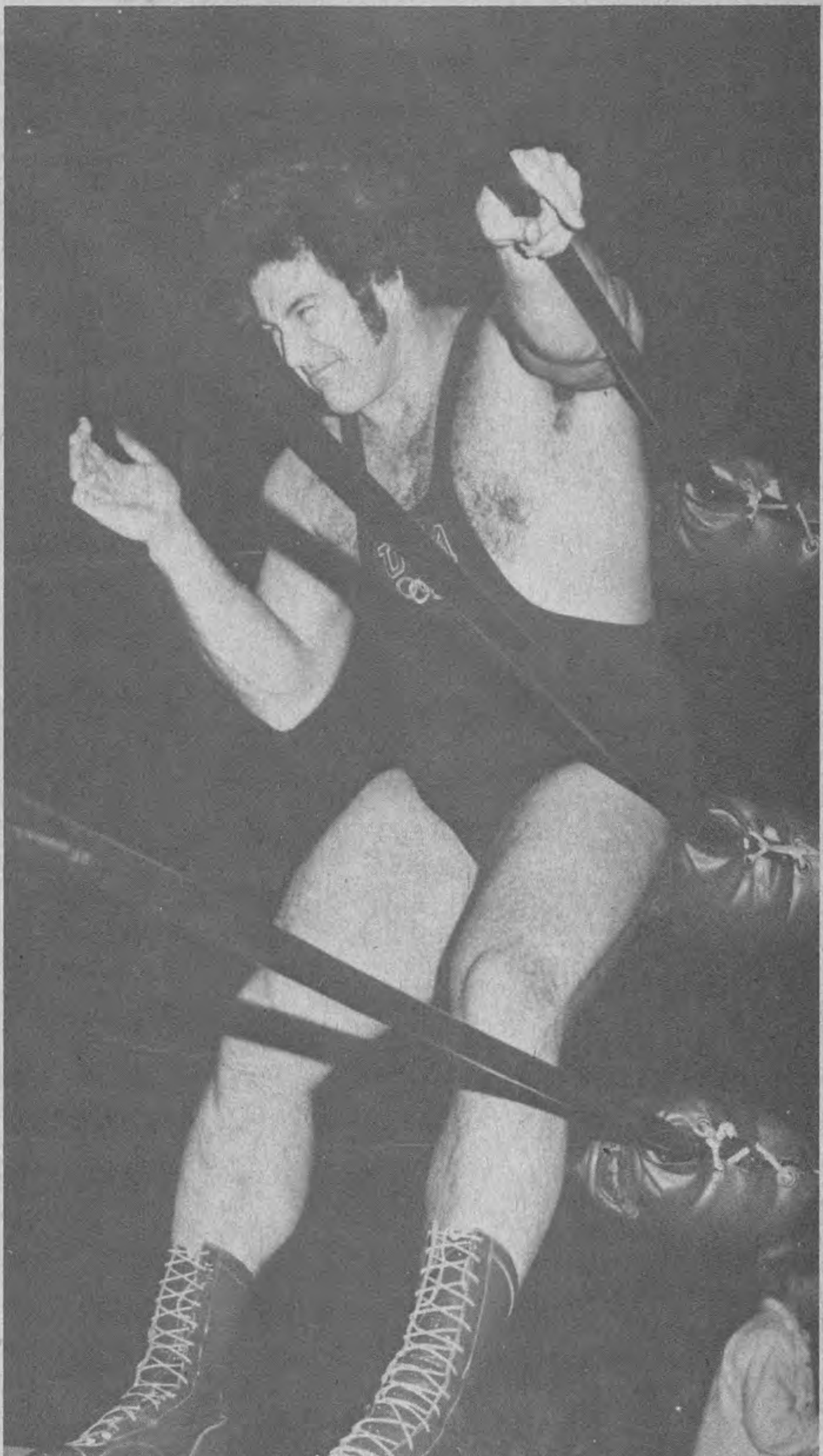
"Jungle boy? I would be fulfilling those words if I stooped

JIMMY SN
GIVES KEN PA
"CIVILIZED" B



Patera prepares to whip Snuka across the ring, using his massive strength (left). Snuka grits his teeth while caught in a Patera armlock (right).

Patera winces in a corner, trying to recover from the punishment he absorbed from Snuka (right). Jimmy gave Patera a "civilized beating."



to rulebreaking. I am better than Ken Patera. A worm is better than Ken Patera.

"I wanted to beat him one way: fairly and civilized."

Using the effective Fiji rockhold, Snuka gained the early momentum. His agility and toughness seemed to surprise Patera.

"He's quick from running up trees for coconuts," Patera said after.

Patera tried rulebreaking. Eye-gouging momentarily knocked Snuka to the canvas.

UKA
TERA A
EATING

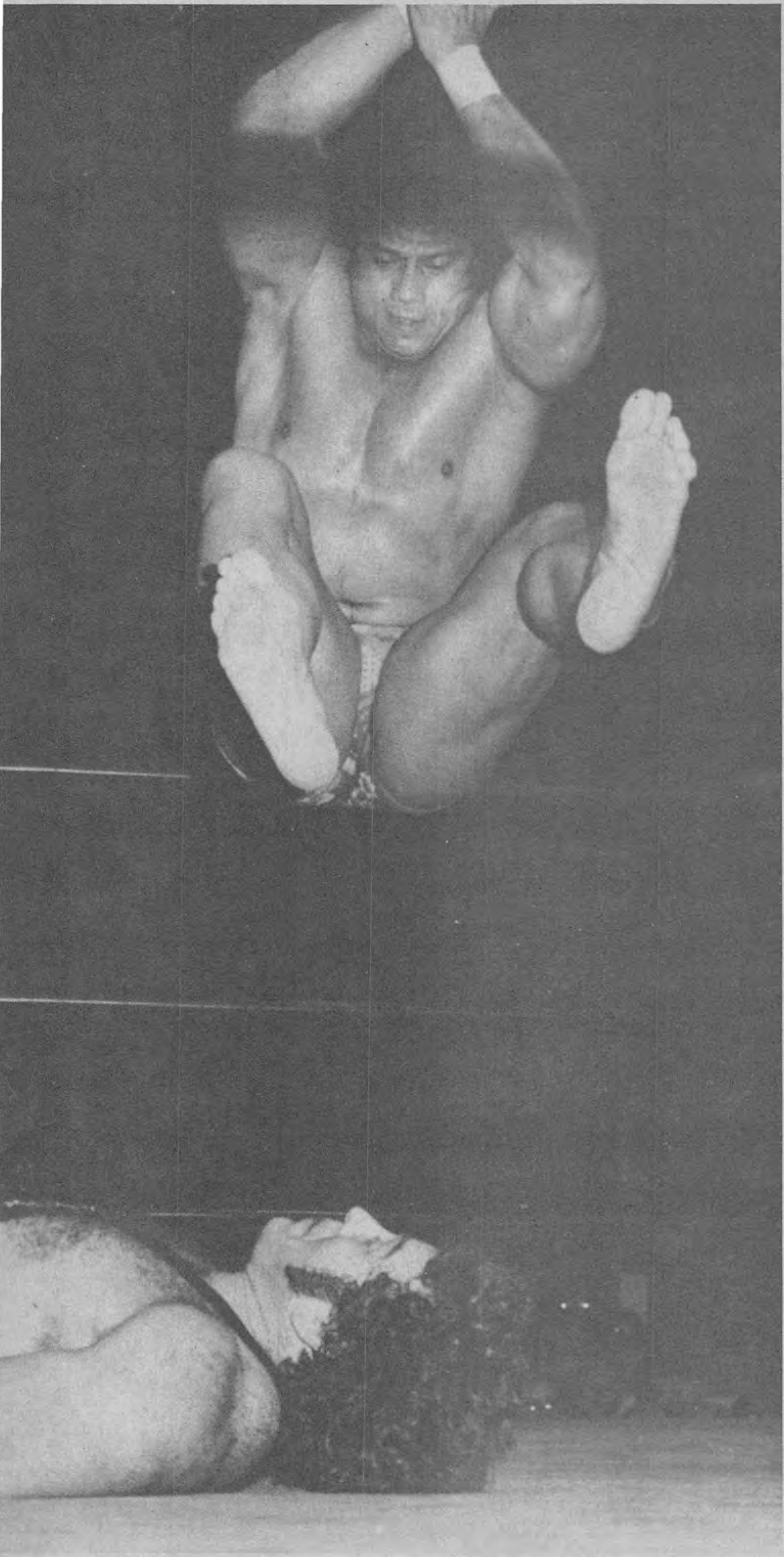
Then Patera made a fatal mistake.

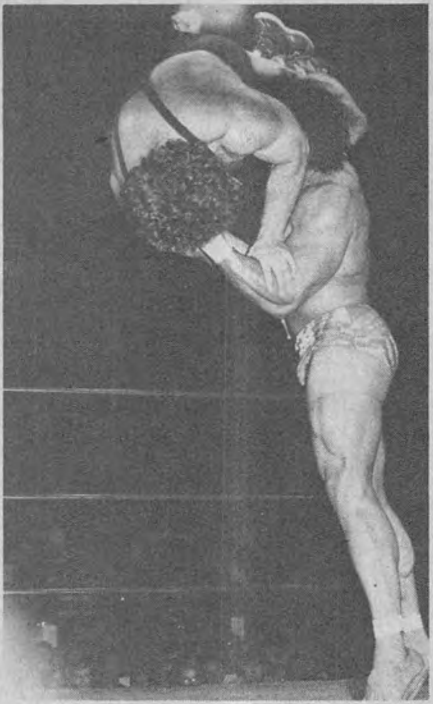
"It's all over, jungle boy," he whispered in Snuka's ear.

Snuka shook with hate. Screaming, he leaped up and flung Patera against the turnbuckle.

"That drove me crazy," Jimmy said. "But as mad as I was, I had to stay civilized. That was most important."

Dignity opposed cruelty as Jimmy Snuka faced Ken Patera. Most people worried for Snuka's life, figuring Patera would batter the fine young man senseless. But when it was over, Jimmy gave everyone a new faith in dignity





Snuka uses one of his effective flying maneuvers to further weaken an already dazed Patera (left). Snuka shows his remarkable power by bodyslamming the huge Patera (above).

Perhaps it was more important than the match itself. Snuka holds himself up to a higher standard than most wrestlers. He refuses to give in to rulebreaking ring antics. He feels he has more to prove than the normal grappler.

That's what made his triumph over Patera impressive.

"You see, I am a representative of all my people," Snuka said thoughtfully. "Other wrestlers do not have their people depending on their every match.

"Whenever I do poorly, it reflects on my people and makes me less of a man in their eyes. That includes not only winning or losing, but how I conduct myself in the ring.

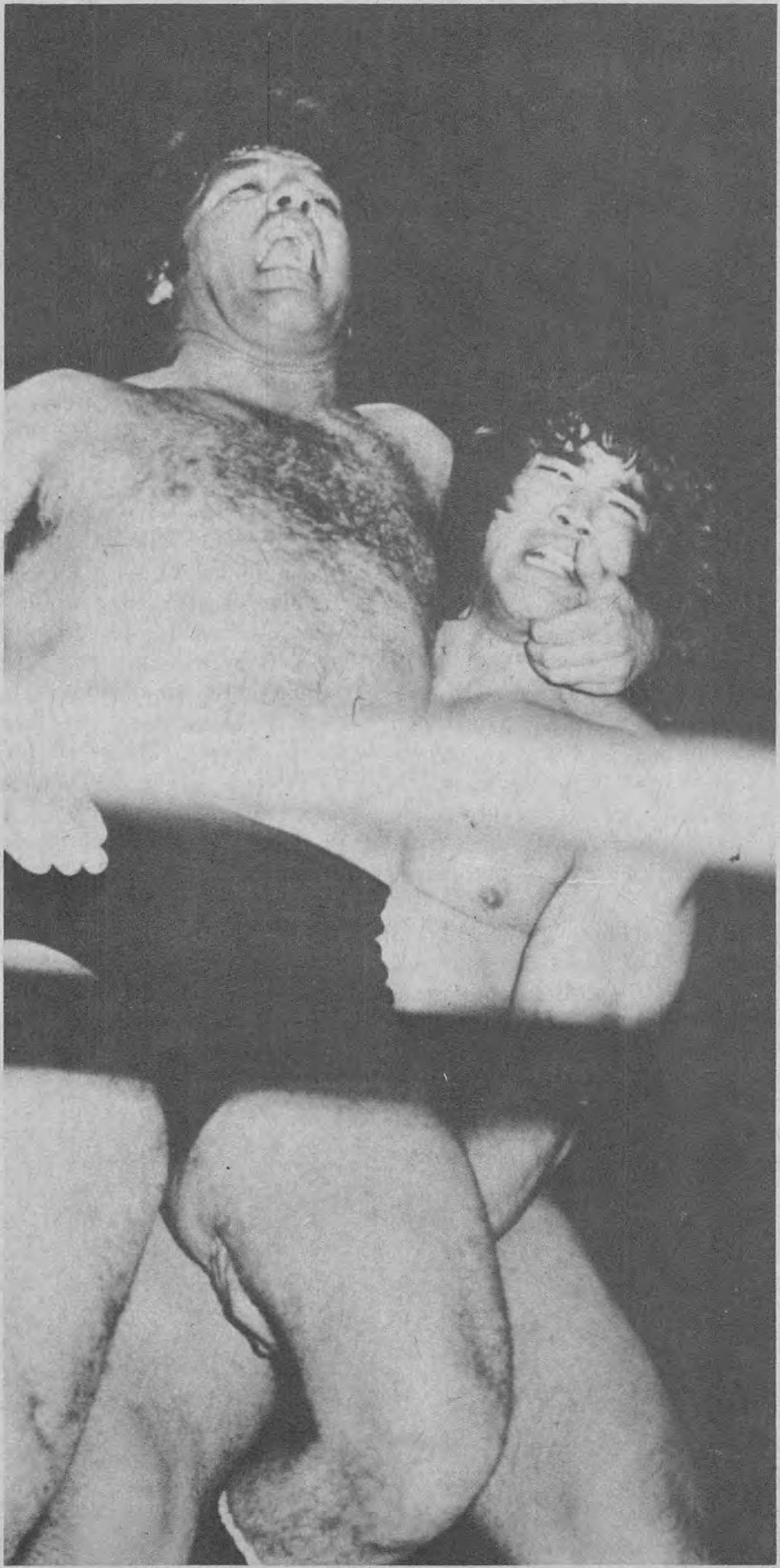
"The Fiji people are a very proud and independent group. Someone who wins by breaking the rules is a loser in our eyes.

"That is why I had to teach Patera a lesson. He will never call me jungle boy again!"

A bruised and battered Ken Patera could not be reached for comment. □

Paul Jones-Rick Steamboat

(Continued from Page 36)



nate deed, he did.

When the shocked reactions rained down upon his snarling figure and the feedback sailed over and enveloped his quaking contempt, Paul Jones was justified. He accomplished his purpose. He received attention on a scale he had never realized before.

He received the yells, the telegrams, the insults of his peers, the criticism by the wrestling leaders and the interviews by the press that he had never received before. But that he deserved before.

Steamboat tries to lift Jones high into the air (left) and backslams him. Ricky is successful (above) as he backslams his former partner and friend.

Could he stop now? Certainly not. His frustration had materialized into a living organism residing within him, motivating him, speaking to him, plucking endless affirmations from his own fearful thoughts.

The only way to get ahead was to turn on his partner. Assault the pretty-boy. Abuse the fans. Insult the press. Befriend the rulebreakers.

So next time you go to the arena and boo Paul Jones, pause. And wonder why. □

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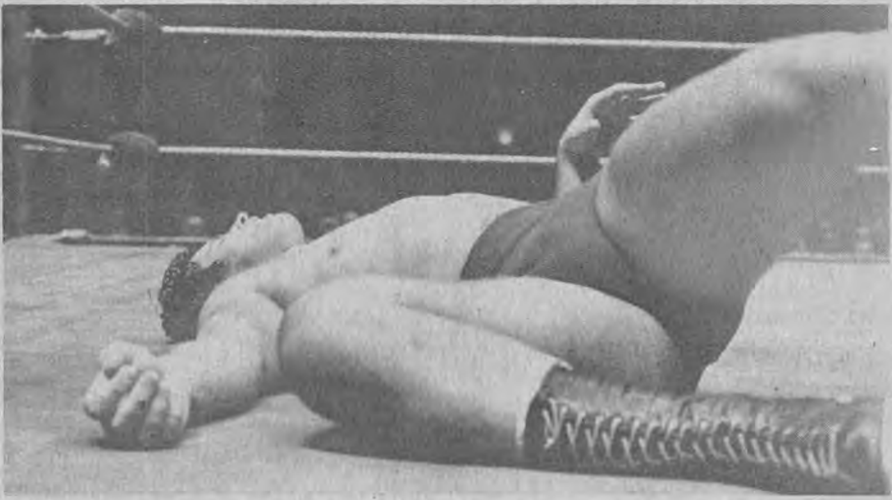
CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 10)



A stunned Tony Garea is helpless on the mat (above) after receiving a low blow from the dastardly High Chief Peter Maivia. Bob Orton Jr. falls to the mat after dropkicking an opponent in a recent Kentucky battle royal (below).

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—*Correspondent:* Kurt Tegtmeier—An old, low wrestling trick was pulled by High Chief Peter Maivia. He suckered Tony Garea with a handshake and then kicked him low. It kept Garea weakened for the next five minutes. Momentum shifted back to Garea and he was about to whip Maivia. Garea hurled Maivia into the turnbuckle, but Maivia came back and slammed Garea to the canvas to win.

In other bouts, Stan Stasiak bopped S.D. Jones .... Andre the Giant and Dino Bravo pummeled Crusher Blackwell and Pierre the Lumberjack.

HAZARD, KY.—*Correspondent:* Jeffrey Hall—A 12-man elimination match with a $3,000 first prize was the main event. It came down to three wrestlers: Bob Roop, Bob Orton Jr., and Kevin Sullivan. After shoulder-breaking Roop, sullivan took on Orton. Orton was disqualified for hitting the referee, giving Sullivan the victory and the money.

In other matches, Ron Fuller left Boris Malenko a bloody, unconscious bundle after a Russian Death Match . . . Rip Smith, Ken Lucas and Kevin Sullivan won over Ron Wright, The Destroyer and Professor Toru Tanaka.

Big Lumberjack Jos LeDuc (above) was disqualified against rulebreaking Dick Slater, in a recent bout. LeDuc has declared war on Florida rulebreakers.

Dick Slater (above) was choked with a towel by Jos LeDuc. Slater and LeDuc have started a cruel Florida feud.

MELBOURNE, FLA.—*Correspondent:* **John Englert**—Fans of this city were thrilled by a series of frantic matches. Florida champion Joe LeDuc willingly accepted the challenge of Dick Slater. It began scientifically, but got wild when Slater showed the rulebreaking side of his split personality. LeDuc responded by choking Slater with a towel. LeDuc was disqualified, but kept his belt.

In other bouts, Rocky Johnson overcame Sonny King in a brutal brass knuckles match . . . Herb Calvert and Prince Tonga drew . . . Raul Mata downed Tenryu. □

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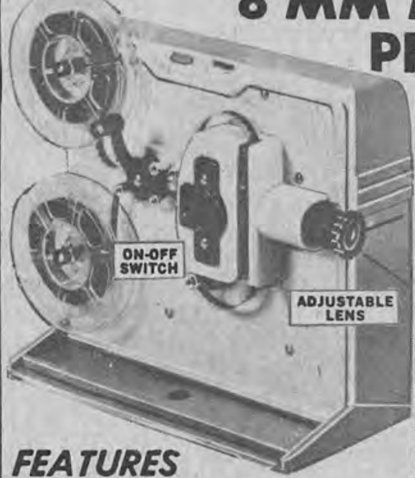

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 12)

NWA champion Harley Race glances at the championship belt he won from Terry Funk on February 6, 1977. Race is in danger of losing the title to top-seated challenger Dusty Rhodes. Dusty has invented a new hold he plans to use to topple Race. Ox Baker (right, opposite page) plans to finish off Florida fan favorites in "about one week!"

champion Fabulous Moolah. "Maybe I manager her, maybe I don't," is all he would say. A photo of the two conferring in a dressing room at Madison Square Garden started the rumor.

NWA champion Harley Race said is not afraid of "this new hold Dusty Rhodes says he has perfected that will make me lose my title and beg him for mercy at the same time! Rhodes is too dumb to come up with any new hold."

Dino Bravo got a shot at the AWA championship in Toronto but his dreams were destroyed when champion Nick Bockwinkle was disqualified, thus saving his title . . . Tiger Jet Singh is back in Canada after a lengthy tour of the Orient . . . Ken Lucas is angry that the match he had against the Mexican Angel was ruled a draw . . . Andre the Giant and Dusty Rhodes won a tag team title in New Orleans in front of more than 30,000 fans . . . Louisiana champion Jerry Stubbs defends his belt against former champion Assassin I in a few weeks.

Japanese correspondent Koichi Yoshizawa noted that Bruiser Brodie is one of the toughest men to ever wrestle in Japan . . . Peter Maivia hopes the WWWF will grant him another shot at Bob Backlund's WWWF title . . . Big John Studd and Ken Patera are holding the Mid-Atlantic tag team belts despite challenges from the best teams the area offers . . . Randy Savage said his Mid-American title is "not in jeopardy with the crummy talent I have to defend against."

John Studd said that Blackjack Mulligan is off his "hit list." "I have taken Mulligan off because he is no longer a challenge to me. He's washed up, through." Mulligan counters by saying "Studd is too scared to step into the ring with me again. That slimy coward can't fight his way out of a Baggie. I used to think he was tough. Now I think he's just a big coward!"

Young Kerry Von Erich made his Houston, Texas, wrestling debut in a six-man tag team match with brother Kevin and father Fritz at his side. Ringsiders report that Kerry handled the situation very well. They look forward to seeing Kerry in single competition in the near future. "Boy, I would love to get a match against Mark Lewin. Also Gino Hernandez. I hate 'em both. Man, I'd even wrestle 'em for free!" Kerry said.

Ox Baker returned to Florida and swears he will cripple Mike Graham, Eddie Graham, both

Brisco brothers, Dusty Rhodes and Jim Garvin. "It'll take me about a week to finish 'em all off!" growls the big Ox. I'd say he's got tough work in front of him!"

Dick "The Bulldog" Brower wants it stated that "Brower Power is far superior to this idiot Ivan Putski's Polish Power garbage. Check my record. I have beaten stiffs like Putski over and over again. Brower Power is where it's at. Me and my manager Captain Lou Albano have gotten it together. We're winners and that's all that counts!"

And that's what's happening! □

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SKIP YOUNG

(Continued from Page 23)

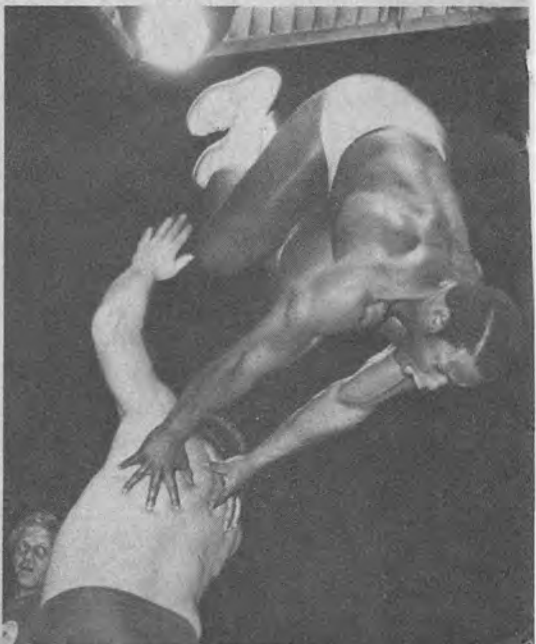
scissors and the flying dropkick.

"I've got the best flying dropkick in the sport, with all respect to Mil Mascaras," said Young.

Young is currently wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic area, with occasional visits to Texas and Florida. Wherever he goes, his thrilling moves evoke respect among his peers.

"Young is something else," said Rick Steamboat. "That young man has a brilliant future in front of him."

Above: Skip's strength is awesome, as he throws Jacques Goulet across the ring. Below left: The superb athletic grace at Skip's command allows him to snare Goulet in a flying headscissors. Below right: Skip hurtles a stunned Gene Anderson during a recent match.



Above: Skip is a whirlwind of fury as he smashes Ox Baker. Below: Skip has Baker trapped!

"I would like to know how he gets up so high," said Dusty Rhodes.

Even rulebreakers express some respect.

"Not bad, not too bad," said Ric Flair.

"I've seen worse," said Ken Patera.

Young is often compared to a great veteran wrestler Dory Dixon. In both physique and style, their manners are remarkably similar.

"Yeah, I saw Dixon when I was growing up," Young said, grinning. "I guess I was influenced by him. When I started out and people compared me to Dixon, wow, that was a real lift.

"But what I really want someday is for a kid to come up and have the veterans say, "Hey, he reminds me of Skip Young!" □

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BRUISER BRODIE

(Continued from Page 25)

composure. A twist of an ear. Brisco snarled, but held back. A finger in the eye. Still, Jack stiffly held his temper.

And then the moment came when Brodie went too far and carried a fine man along his black waves and into the dark pit of evil. They were grappling in a corner when . . .

"He, he tried to bite my tongue off," Brisco said, his lips pursed bloodless. "I, I have never experienced anything like that. It was inhuman. I . . ."

He went berserk. Accompanied by a throaty cry which tore through his soul and parted his mouth into a quaking oval, Brisco shoved a flattened hand into Brodie's windpipe.

Toppling into the ropes, Brodie lashed out with his foot, catching Brisco just below the groin. Another tormented shriek and Brisco seized his sneering foe by the hair, whipping him around in a struggling circle and flinging him against a turnbuckle.

A sickening thud echoed about the ring. Brodie was motionless as Brisco stalked him. The referee positioned himself between the men, but Brisco was an unthinking, rigid man of hate. He shoved aside the referee and, as Brodie staggered to his feet, administered a crushing blow which shattered the rule-breaker's nose.

A double disqualification mercifully ended the bout. Yet it was only a result, a line of ink in some official scorecards. It was unable to convey the anguish flowing through Brisco's gut.

"I did a terrible thing. I can never be the same. No excuse, no reasons, no time can heal this awful moment.

"From this day forward I am something less than a scientific wrestler. Brodie has permanently cheapened me." □

Below: Brodie smashes Jack with a kidney punch. Bottom: Jack prepares to slam Brodie in the head.

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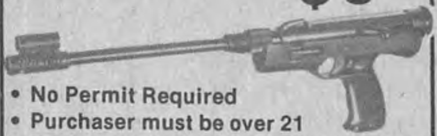

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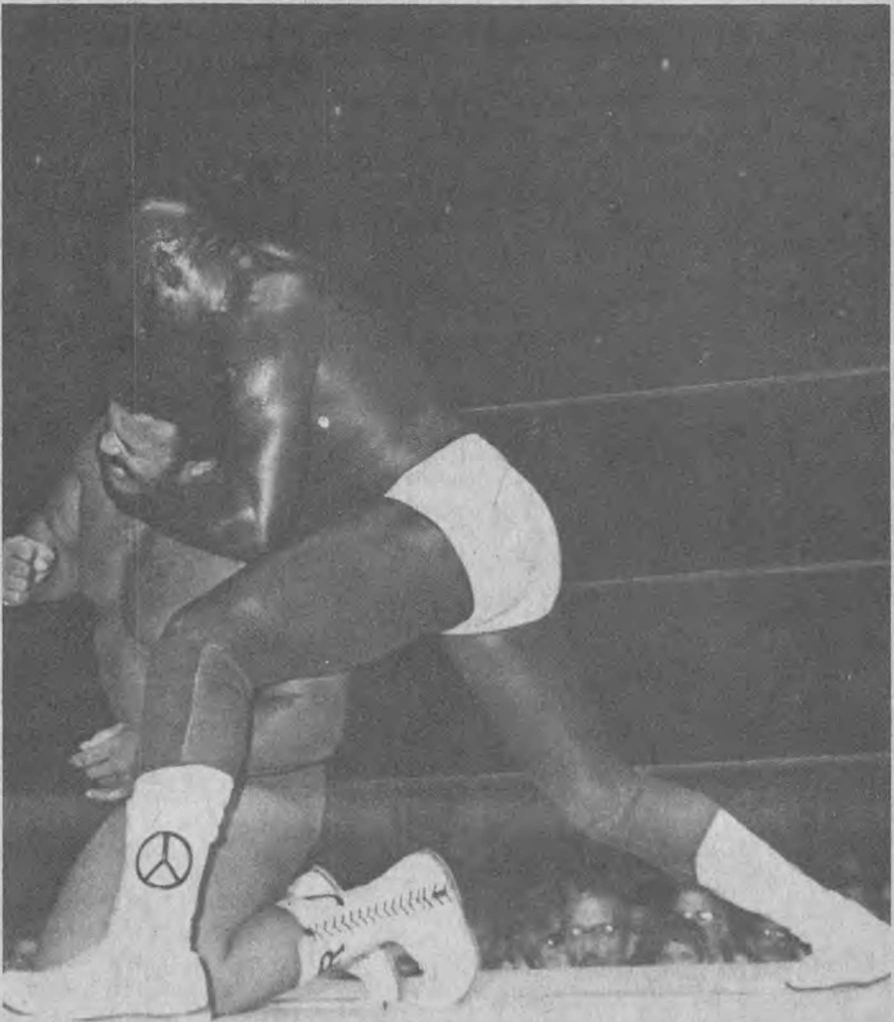
SONNY KING

(Continued from Page 29)



King did much damage early in the match, before he made the fatal mistake of using his mouth to utter the words, "Join me, brother." Johnson then exploded with rage. King choked Rocky (above) and punched him (below) before Johnson came on.

usually behaves in an insane manner.

King met Johnson after a series of bloody and wild matches. This one was no different.

Reaching within the sewer system he calls his wrestling style, King unearthed muddy trick after muddy trick in an effort to cripple Johnson.

For a while, both men bounced in a hateful clasp along the ropes. Their maniacal moans pierced the shrieking crowd noises.

'I wanted to choke him," said Johnson.

Then the remark which sent Rocky Johnson into a fit of hate was uttered. King leaned over and shouted something at Johnson. Rocky's eyes rolled, his legs pawed the ground and his left toe tapped the mat.

"He said, 'Join me, brother,'" Johnson recalled, his lips quivering. "I saw red when he said that. Here's this goon suggesting I turn rulebreaker. Playing on my roots like that, damn!"

Sonny King (above), a former scientific wrestler who now manages and grapples with a rulebreaking style.

Johnson sucked in deep breaths, wrapped his hands around King's neck and squeezed. Eyes closed, mouth opened and tongue jutting spasmodically, King began to drift toward unconsciousness.

"Then I saw what I had done," admitted Johnson.

Rocky released King's neck and stepped aside as the body slumped, half-conscious, to the canvas. Both men were later disqualified.

"I'm ashamed. But he deserved it," said Johnson. □

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(Continued from Page 8)

Q: Does Adullah the Butcher sign autographs?—Alfred Pate, Atlanta, Ga.

A: Alfred, you're a courageous guy. We wouldn't suggest approaching the strong man from Sudan and asking for an autograph. On one occasion,

The wild Abdullah the Butcher likes to eat pencils when he is asked for his autograph. He is dangerous!

Abdullah ate the pencil. Another time he shredded the piece of paper and stuffed it up his nostrils.

***

Q: Will Bruno Sammartino stay as an announcer, as a wrestler or both?—Vincent Ingato, Maplewood, N.J.

Bruno Sammartino has recently taken up broadcasting. His fans shouldn't worry though. He plans to continue grappling.

A: Bruno Sammartino is a man of immense talents and considerable ambitions. He explained his new position as color commentator on profes-

sional wrestling broadcasts: "You know, I enjoy commenting on the matches. It gives me a fresh perspective. At this moment, I do not know how far I will go. I do not plan on giving up my active career."

***

A bloodied Rick Steamboat would like nothing more than to get revenge for what former partner Paul Jones did to him. The emotional scars still remain caused by Jones' betrayal.

Q: My friend was at the match in which Paul Jones attacked Rick Steamboat. Except my friend insisted it was really Steamboat who introduced a foreign object to use on Jones and that's what caused Jones to go berserk. Is this so?—Myra Peterson, Greensboro, N.C.

A: No one who was at the match (our staff, other press members or fans), saw such an incident. Jones' attack was not due to any physical act Steamboat may have committed, but was the result of intense mental pressures. Steamboat is an exponent of scientific wrestling. Your friend may be a secret admirer of rulebreakers. □

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 18)

HORSERADISH!

I just finished reading the article "I'll Make Dusty Rhodes My Slave" (February 1979). Everything Ernie Ladd said in that article is just big talk. Does Ladd think he's going to have our "Dream" believe in that bunch of horseradish?

I want to tell you people and the NWA to check that bandaged thumb of Ladd's. He says it's taped due to an old football injury. That's a laugh. I want that thumb checked now before it's too late!

PETER JASEN
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Ernie Ladd punished Dusty Rhodes (above). Reader Art Buskin appreciates what Dick Murdoch did to Ric Flair (right).

AGREE WITH CYCLONE

I totally agree with Cyclone Negro. Paul Jones *would* use brass knuckles on someone, though I wasn't there that night. I do know that Paul Jones is a cheater and a liar. Look what he did to Rick Steamboat.

After Jones turned on Steamboat, I don't think any nasty trick is beneath him. People should listen to rulebreakers like Negro now and then. They might learn something.

DUANE BOBBS
Charlotte, N.C.

FAN VIOLENCE

The worst type of abuse I have ever witnessed at a wrestling match is the abuse one fan inflicts on another. This is especially prevalent when the scientific wrestlers' fans—who are in the majority—try to deprive the fans of the rulebreakers—in the minority—from cheering for their favorites. Though this abuse is usually verbal, it is disturbing just the same.

Fans try to intimidate others just because they don't cheer for the favorite. That is really unsportsmanlike. Why should I be made to feel guilty just because I like Ernie Ladd, Stan Hansen, Superstar Billy Graham and other rulebreakers?

We wrestling fans are really in a class by ourselves. Hopefully, some will put my philosophy to use.

NILA V. CROSS
New Orleans, La.

NEITHER WILL I

After digesting "They'll Never Forget Dick Murdoch Here" (March 1979), I had to drop a short note expressing my deep admiration for Murdoch. This man has taken great personal risks at every stage of his career. Recognition of his bravry has been long overdue and I'm glad to finally see it happen.

ART BUSKIN
Houston, Tex. □

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Lanza vs. Mulligan:

(Continued from Page 31)

observers rate The Blackjacks as one of the greatest tag teams in the history of wrestling. They held many titles. They defeated the best there was. Many top tag teams ducked them. They were feared. They were respected. But most of all, they were old-fashioned, fun-loving, good-old-boy, wild and crazy romping Texas cowboys.

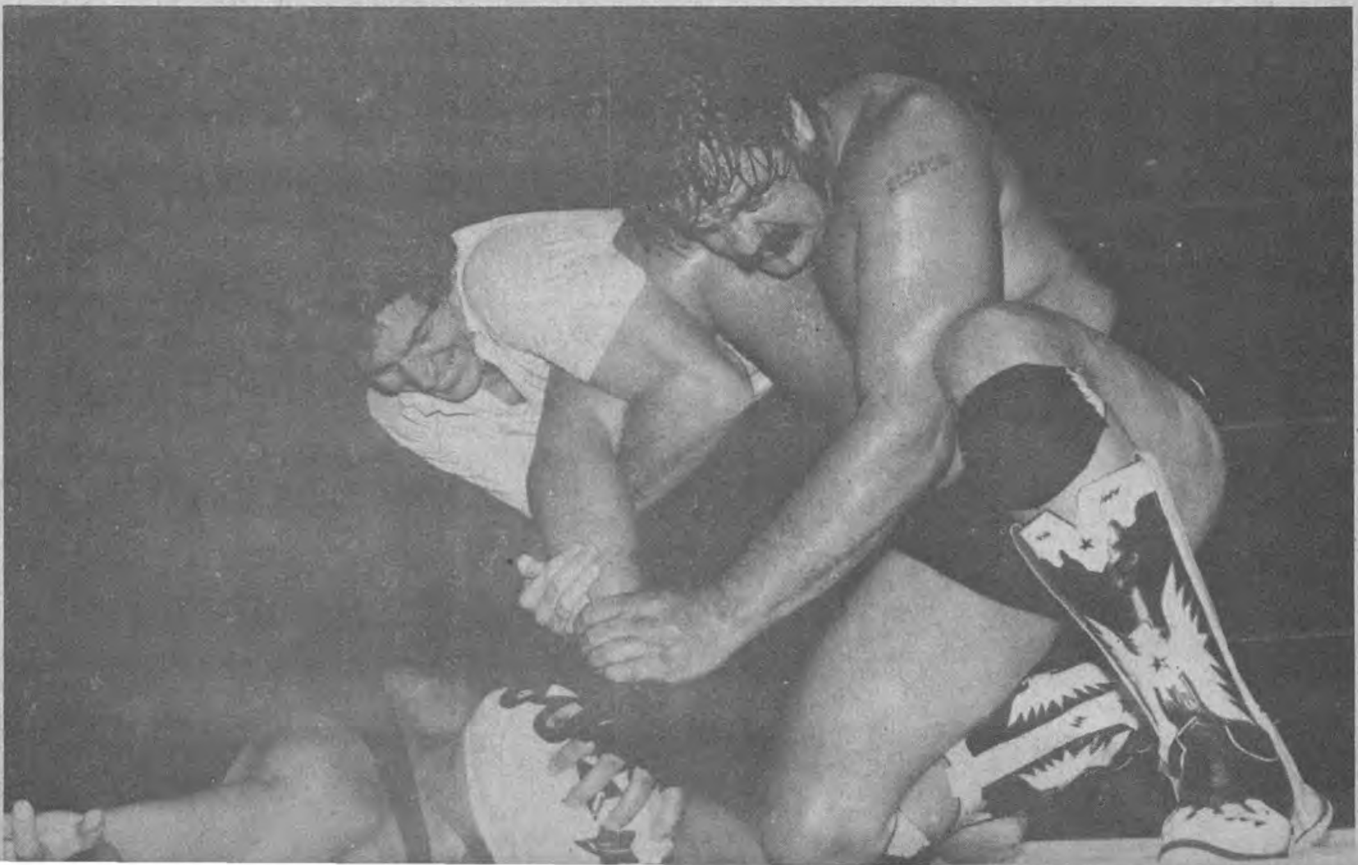
"I'll never forget a road trip I made with The Blackjacks in their heyday," a veteran correspondent recalled. "We drove into this little town in Minnesota and I don't think the townfolk had ever seen a pair of wild cowboys in person before. The two of them went straight to the town pub and sat down and bought the entire place a couple of beers. They just sat around telling cowboy stories about life on the road and the people were fascinated. In 20 mintues they had won over the entire town. They picked up the tab, left a $50 tip and slowly walked out the door and into the dusk. The townspeople got up from their chairs and watched the cowboys strut down the dusty road until only their 10-gallon hats were visible. I got chills when I saw the expression on their faces. It was as if John Wayne himself left the pub on his way to a shootout with the menacing outlaw. There will never be another pair in wrestling like The Blackjacks."

Above: Blackjack Lanza and Mulligan in the golden days. Below left: The Blackjacks and manager Bobby Heenan.

Past tense. The Blackjacks are now spoken of in terms of nostalgia. With Mulligan's recent switch to scientific wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic area and Lanza's continued efforts in the AWA as a rulebreaker, a reunion is unlikely. But no one ever dreamed that they would meet as enemies in the squared circle.

Blackjack against Blackjack. Clawhold against clawhold. Friend against friend. The cowboys are angry. If they meet, close the windows, hide under the table and get out the rifle. There's gonna be a shootout! □

Blackjack Mulligan now claws men like Masked Superstar, who shares much in common with Blackjack Lanza.



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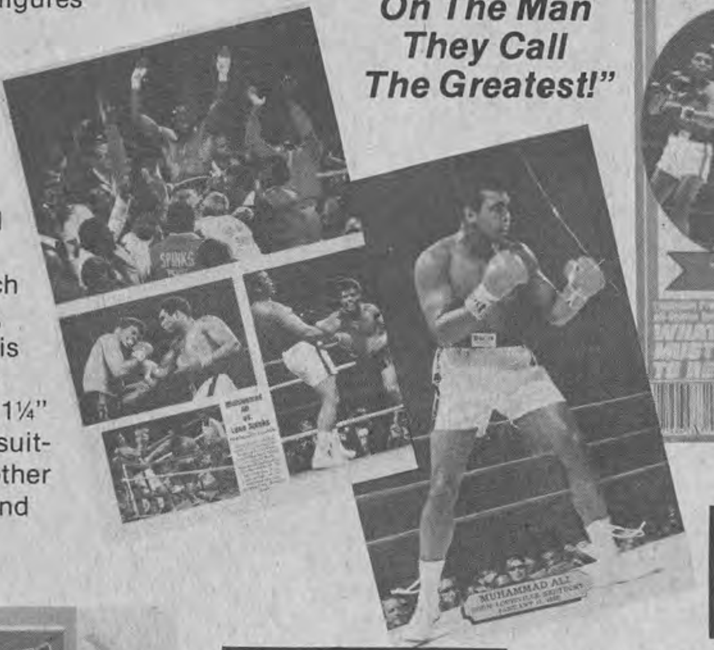

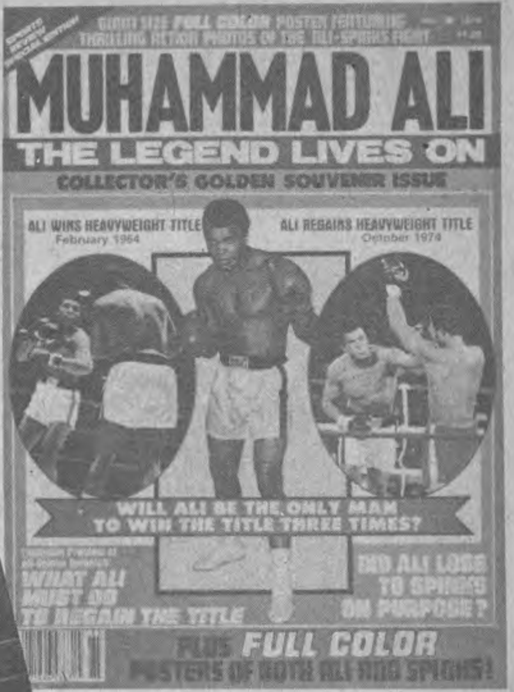

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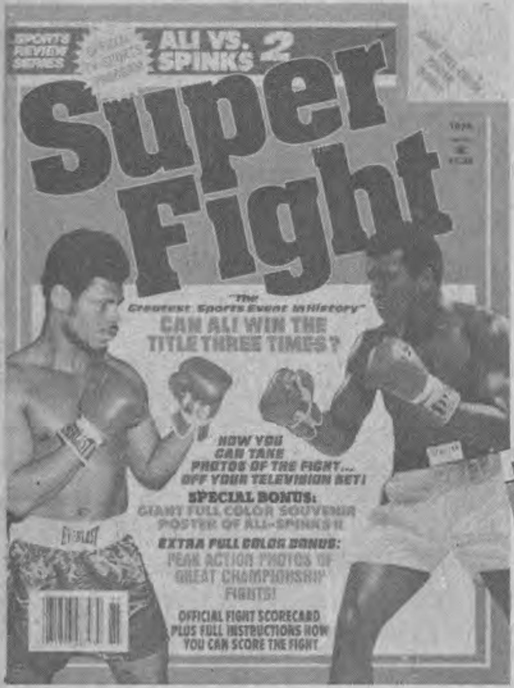

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HARLEY RACE

(Continued from Page 33)

Above: Harley is hurled across the ring by an inspired Tony Garea. Below: Bob Backlund stands determined as the WWWF champion. However Harley Race is just as determined to take the belt from Bob. That would make Harley the first double-champion in more than a generation!

said Garea. "I think Bob is a much more impressive wrestler. Backlund has much more finesse and greater strength than that pug."

Garea is not a protector of Backlund. Rather, his comments reflect something of a resentment Race's move north generated among WWWF wrestlers.

"I think that Harley Race should stay where be belongs," said Bruno Sammartino. "Maybe it is nice for him to come up once and a while, but he has no doggone business wrestling regularly in the WWWF."

"Bob should wrestle Race," said Arnold Skoaland. "We have no objection to that. But when Race gets whipped, we expect him to hand over the NWA belt."

There is precedent for this invasion. Over a year ago, there was the match between then WWWF champ Superstar Graham and NWA king Race. The match ended indecisively, but established a strong basis for future matches between champions.

A strong movement exists heralding Backlund as the leader of the new wave of wrestling. He is young, college-trained and scientific. Race is a brawling, veteran rulebreaker from the old school.

Backlund professes some awkwardness in this possible match-up.

"Gee, I don't respect the way Race wrestles, but I don't want this to become a personal type of thing," Backlund said.

"But I would like to wrestle him. It would be a real challenge."

Talks have already opened concerning a possible summer wrestling date.

"I'll wrestle Backlund anywhere, anytime," snorted Race. "I don't care. Shea Stadium, Madison Square Garden, a side street or an alleyway. What do I care. I'll win.

Once again, Harley Race defends his NWA championship. The king is now determined to extend his kingdom.

"Listen, man. I'm tougher than Backlund, stronger and wiser. I won't stop at the sight of blood. No pain can prevent me from ridding the WWWF of this little creep and giving the fans of this area a real treat.

"When a fan throws down his dough for a ticket, he deserves to see a champ. Not a boy. I can't wait for the match."

The winner of this match would have more than a belt to wear.

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I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, con-

step by step thriving business

present job, would $21 profit per hour?

by Bob Ferrel

ventions and dealer group meetings.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success.

It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows . . . then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of $14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how . . .** step by step. That's $490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is $21 per hour. An efficient Duraclean dealer can gross $7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus $12 an hour on any service he himself renders. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit.** Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself . . . or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn . . . easy to start . . . so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience . . . not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers . . . and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of National Magazine editors, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you.**

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing . . . a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan . . . and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven** methods. You have **our backing and "know how."**

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big.

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers . . . revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life.** There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

Government figures show service businesses are **growing faster** than industries and stores . . . $750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your **6 other services** are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.

Only $1985 starts you in YOUR OWN business. And we have enough confidence in your success that we finance the balance of the total cost of $5900, with no interest or finance charges.

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever,** mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

Mail this coupon TODAY
It may put you in business

Duraclean International
9-965 **Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill 60015**

With no obligation, mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security **while still employed,** how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call on me.

Name__________
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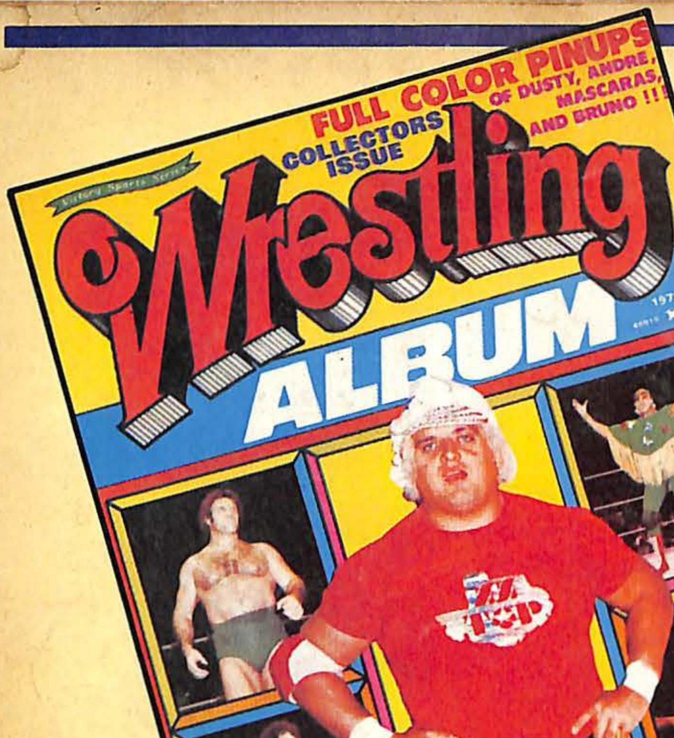
City__________
State & Zip__________
County __________



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